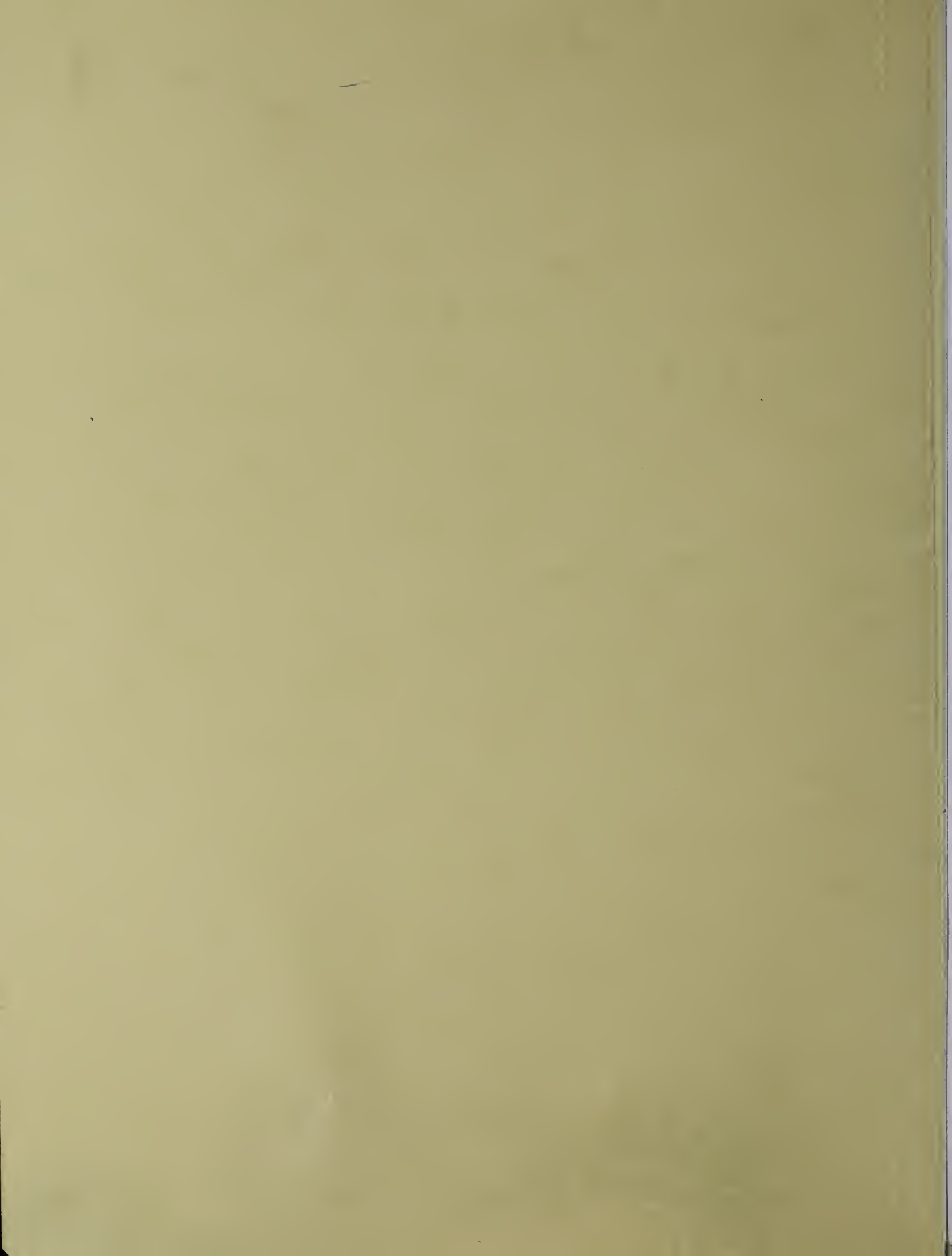


History Buildings

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

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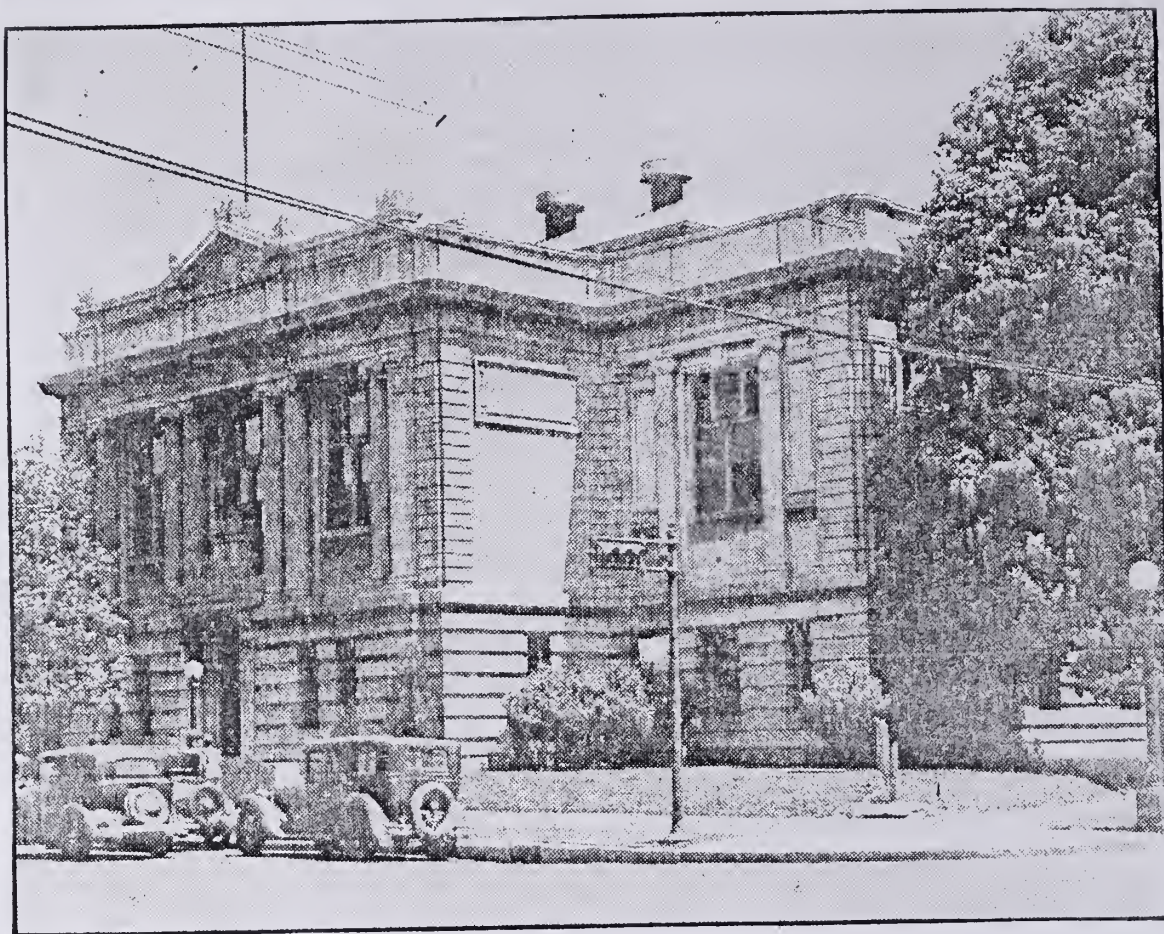
Illinois Springfield

Historic Buildings

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln Library Has 130,000 Books on Shelves



Lincoln Library, located at Seventh street and Capitol avenue, has 130,000 books on its shelves. It was erected at a cost of \$85,000, of which \$75,000 was a gift from Andrew Carnegie.

SPRINGFIELD'S LIBRARY DATES BACK 70 YEARS

Present Structure Made Possible Through Gift From Andrew Carnegie

Lincoln library has not always been a free lending institution. Neither has it always been known by its present name.

Organized in 1866 as the Springfield Library association, it was a joint stock company with shares at \$10 each, and unlimited in number.

The suggestion of such an association was first made in 1865. Rev. Fred H. Wines of the First Presbyterian church gave several lectures in its favor, and through diligent campaigning, enough money was subscribed so that the organization became complete a year later.

By 1868 there were 130 stockholders. The annual assessment on each was three dollars, holders of all shares of paid assessments having the privilege to vote. Life subscribers paid \$50 each and were entitled to one vote, and exemption from the annual tax. Non-stockholders had library privileges for five dollars per year in advance in one payment, or in two payments per year of two and three dollars, respectively.

The library opened to subscribers Feb. 23, 1869 with 1300 volumes ready for distribution. From 1869 to 1870 it was located in the Jess building on the south side of Washington street between Fourth and Fifth streets, just in back of the present Myers building. From 1870 to 1871 it was in the Lewis (or Masonic) block on the north side of Monroe street between Sixth and Seventh streets. This later was remodeled for the Illinois State Register.

From 1871 to 1886 the library was situated in the Masonic building (or Richardson building) on the northwest corner of Fifth and Monroe streets.

130,000 Volumes

It remained a subscription institution until 1885 when it was offered to the city on condition that it be maintained as a free public library. The transfer was made on April 1 of that year and the Springfield Public

library opened June 7, 1886, with 7,550 volumes. Today there are more than 130,000 volumes.

In 1886 the library was moved to the Y. M. C. A. building on the northwest corner of Fifth street and Capitol avenue, where it remained until 1894, when it took over the entire third floor of the city hall.

The present site on Seventh street and Capitol avenue was secured by the city in 1901 at a cost of \$18,000. The building was erected by means of a \$75,000 gift tendered by Andrew Carnegie. Its total cost was \$85,000.

Opened to the public in 1904 under the name of Lincoln library, it was first meant to be called the Lincoln-Carnegie Memorial library, but the latter objected, saying he would consider it a desecration to have any name linked with that of Lincoln. He asked instead that the library be known as the "Lincoln Library," and not the Lincoln Memorial Library as Lincoln needed no memorial.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Carnegie, was marked in the library Nov. 25, 1935, and the portrait given by the Carnegie corporation placed.

Today there are branches in the north, south and west part of town; 18 school stations, two hospital stations and one reading room. Plans for a new building, to be constructed with WPA funds at a cost of \$550,000, have been submitted to the government, but not approved.

The library proper consists of the Susan Wilcox room, the children's room, the technical room, the extension department, the club-room, the reading room and the cataloguing room. Circulation for 1936 equals 656,272 with 130,765 new volumes turned over to the library. Readers totaled 800,931.

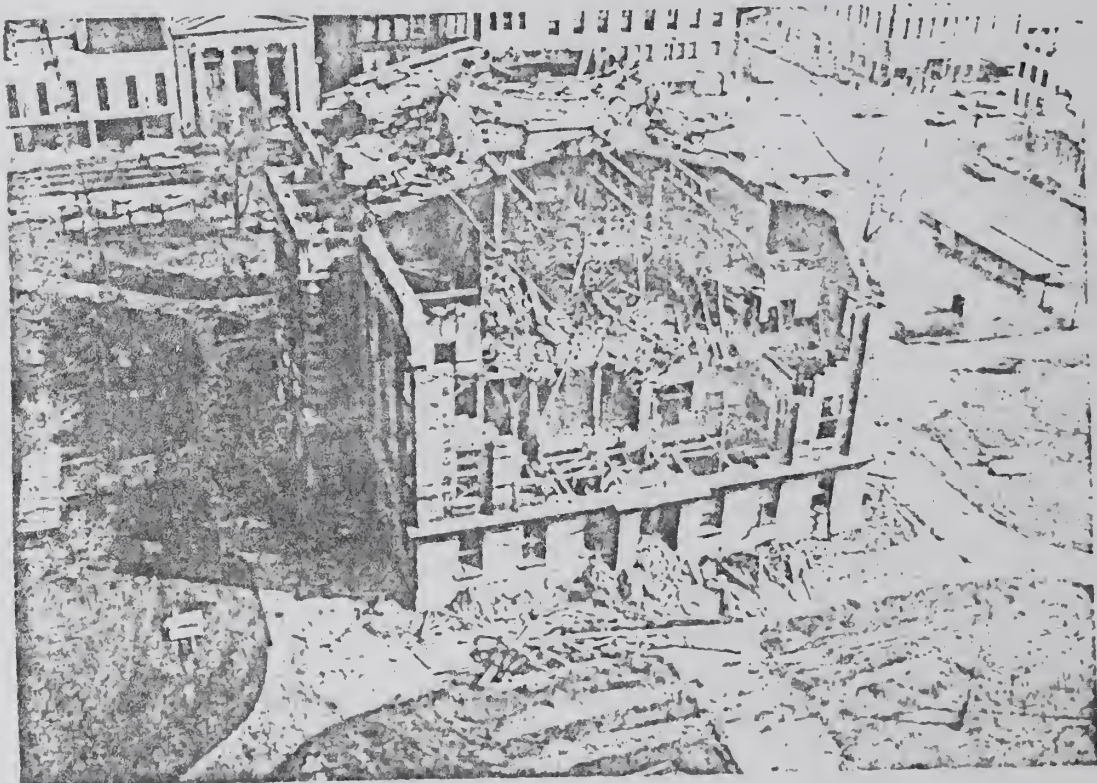
Martha Wilson is librarian and treasurer. Other officers are W. H. Conway, president; Porter Paddock, vice president and W. W. Swett, Jr., secretary. Board members are Mrs. H. C. Blankmeyer, G. W. Bunn, Jr., Dr. T. D. Masters, C. J. Riefler, Mrs. M. L. Williamson and A. D. Stevens.

The library staff consists of Elizabeth A. Conover, Elizabeth Burr, Mildred Baumann, Mary Evalyn Crookston, Edith C. Sharp, Elizabeth Barker, Nellie D. Hughes, Esther Hunn, Helen L. Watts and Marian E. Young.

Assistants are: Margaret A. Flint, Dorothy D. Fannon, Jane Greer, Mary Virginia Carswell, Erna Schoknecht, Jennie Feldkamp and Raymond Patton.



THE SANGAMON COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 1901 - 1965



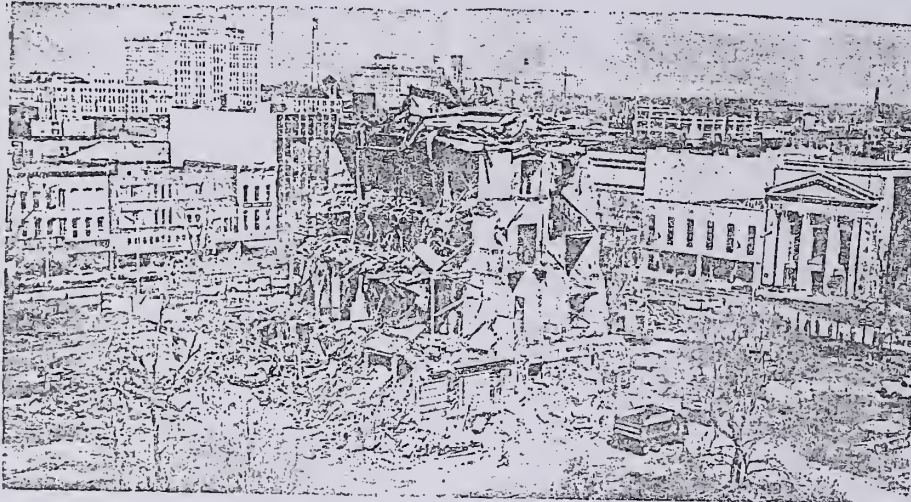
THE OLD BUILDING COMES DOWN - FEBRUARY 1966



It Served The People For 127 Years, But Now It Is No More Mar 31 66

Workmen using heavy equipment Wednesday began the final step in the total demolition of the Old State Capitol—
 Sangamon County Courthouse. The historic outer in 1839; later it was raised a story and then served as the official courthouse for Sangamon County until 1965. Now from this pile of rubble will rise the Old Capitol once again for use

Illinois State Register, Springfield, Wednesday, April 3, 1966



GOING! GOING! -- This picture, taken from an upper floor of the First National Bank building, shows the progress of razing of the Old State Capitol building. After the building is completely razed and the square block area cleared of debris, the trees will be re-

moved and work started on excavating for the underground parking and for the subterranean historical library building. The razing is expected to be complete in a few days.

APR 3 '66
"Laf. Sun"



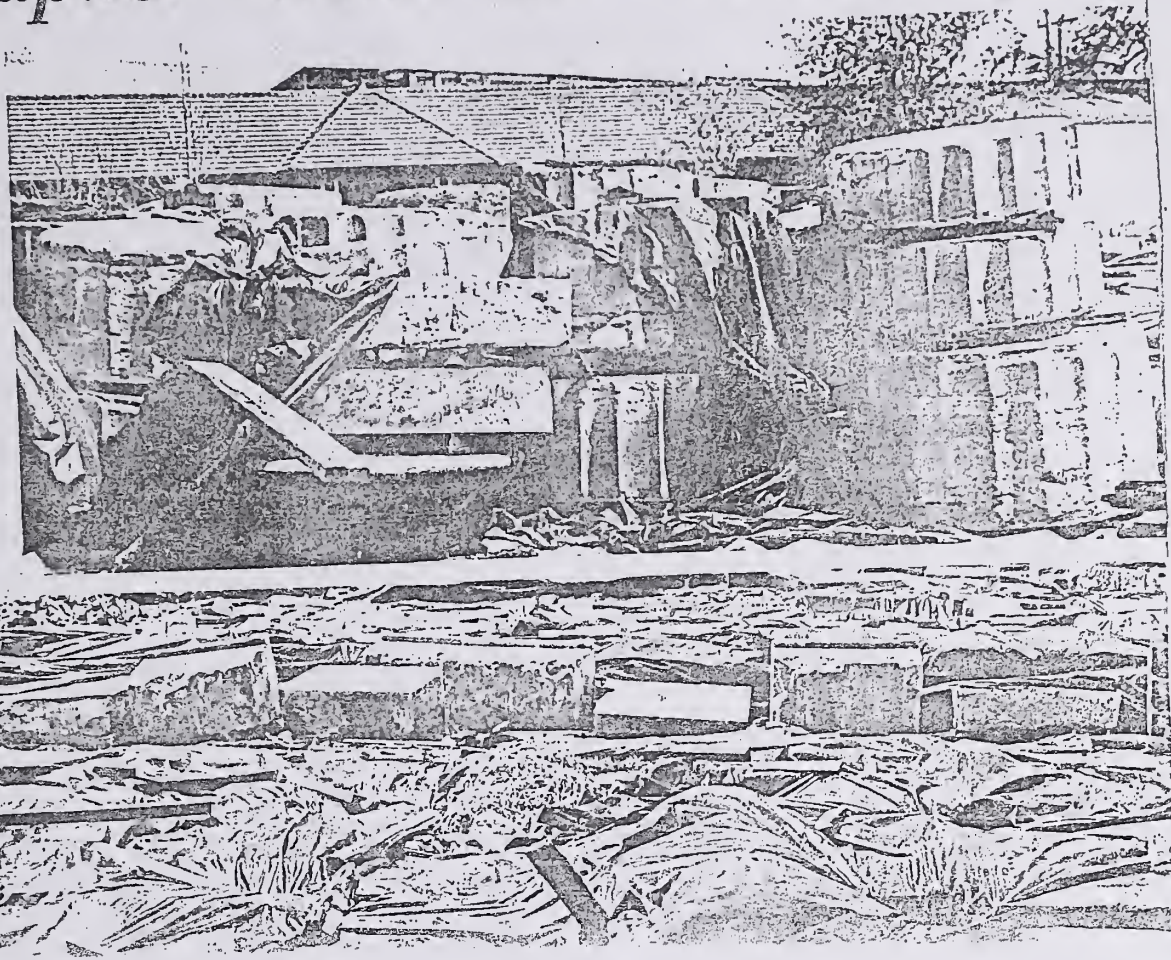
Old Capitol Building On Last Legs

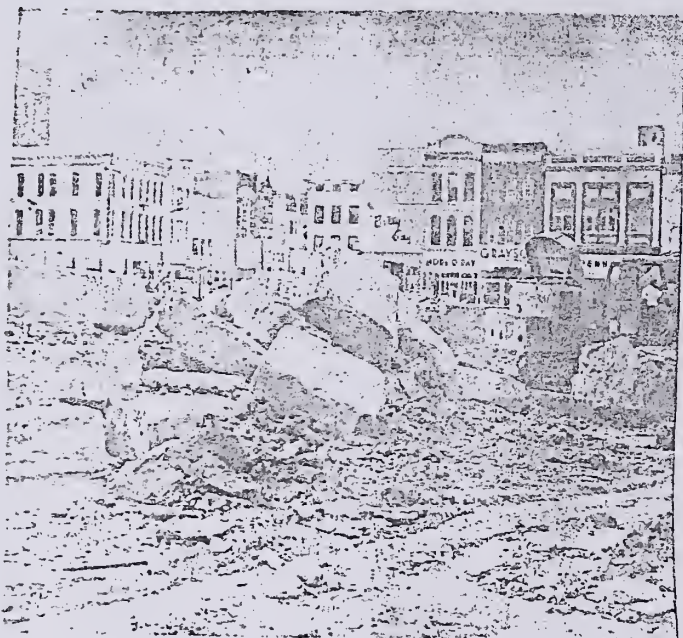
The historic old Capitol, which first served as the Illinois State Capitol and later as the Sangamon County Courthouse for more than 100 years, will soon be demolished. Workmen are busy hauling away the debris as quickly

as the crane demolishes the remaining walls of the structure. The historic stones, which were worth saving, have been carefully stored for the rebuilding project and only the brick walls remain to be razed. (Staff Photo)

Old Capitol Stones Are Stored--Safely

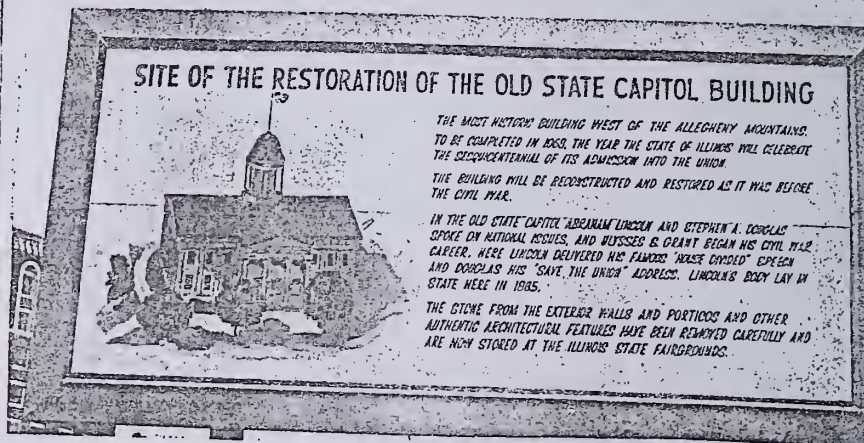
To set at rest the concern of many persons for the stones removed from the Old State Capitol pending restoration of the old structure, the SPRINGFIELD SUN sent Photographer Joe Inley to the state fairgrounds to obtain visual proof that the stones and pillars are safe, secure and ready for reassembling sometime in 1967 on the former site. These pictures will allay any fears folks may have.





TONS OF FOUNDATION — Stone foundation blocks, weighing more than 1,000 pounds each, are uncovered during diggings on the

Old Capitol restoration site. The stones are from the original construction in 1839. (Staff Photo)



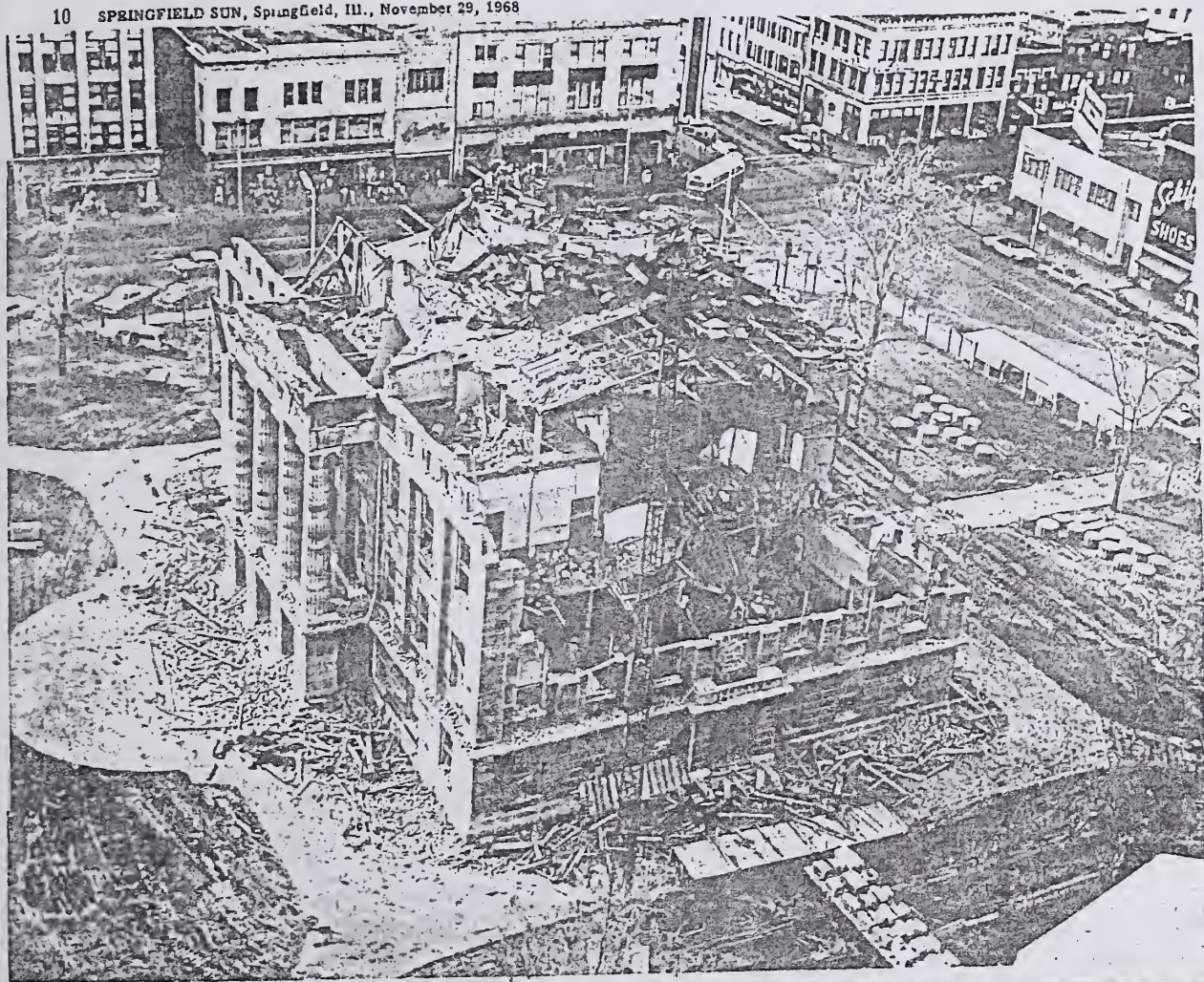
SITE OF THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

THE MOST HISTORIC BUILDING WEST OF THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1960, THE YEAR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS WILL CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF ITS ADMISSION INTO THE UNION. THE BUILDING WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED AND RESTORED AS IT WAS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.

IN THE OLD STATE CAPITOL ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS SPOKE ON NATIONAL ISSUES, AND RUSSELL B. GARDNER BEGAN HIS CIVIL WAR CAREER. HERE LINCOLN DELIVERED HIS FAMOUS "HOUSE DIVIDED" SPEECH AND DOUGLAS HIS "SAFE THE UNION" ADDRESS. LINCOLN'S BODY LAY IN STATE HERE IN 1865.

THE STONE FROM THE EXTERIOR WALLS AND PORTICOES AND OTHER AUTHENTIC ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED CAREFULLY AND ARE NOW STORED AT THE ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS.

TO ADVISE TOURISTS— Two large signs have been erected at the southeast and northwest corners of the Old State Capitol to advise tourists of the reason for the absence of the old structure and the reason for the construction project. The signs carry a painting of the old building as it will appear when restoration is complete.



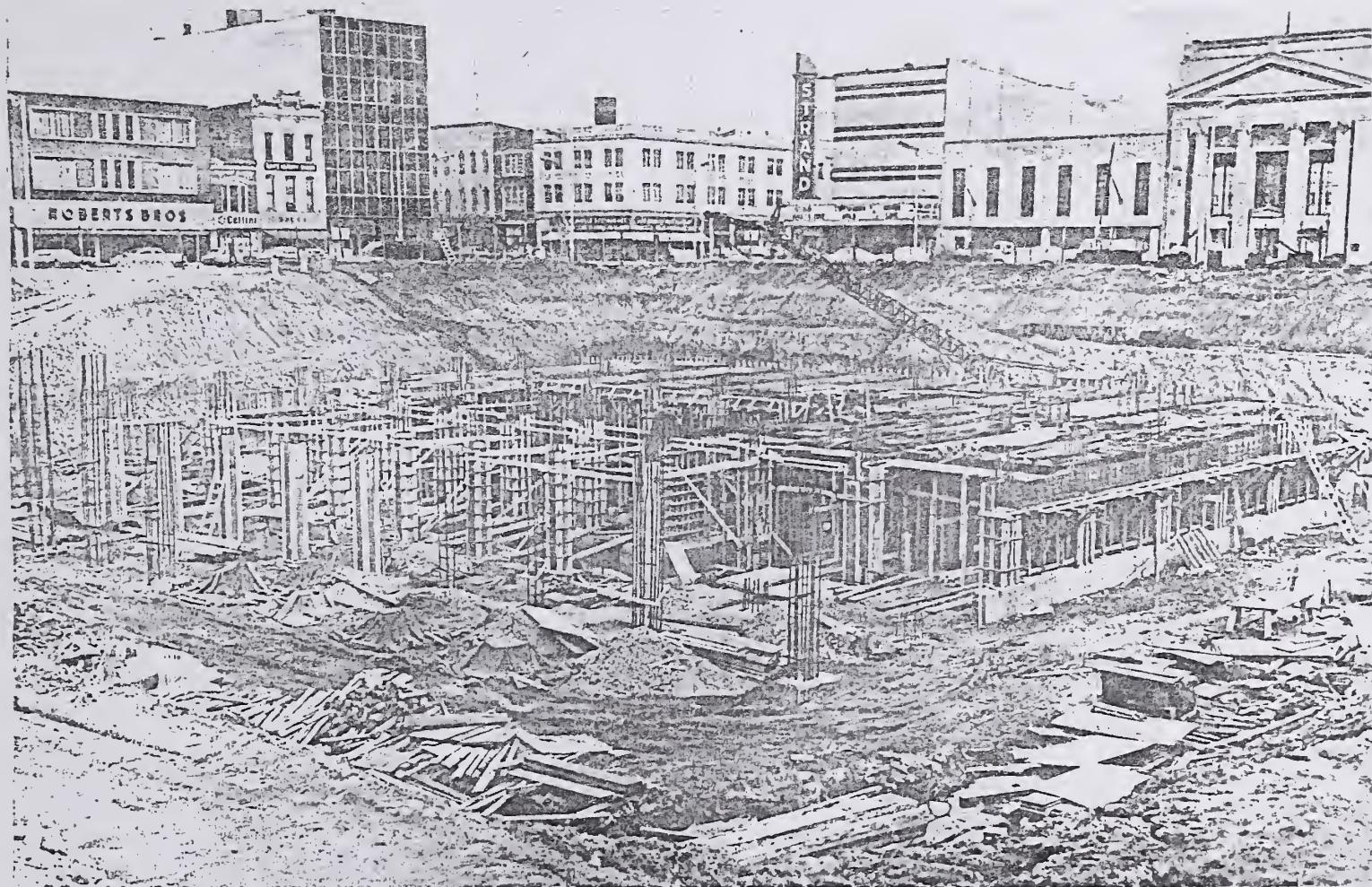
RAZING UNDER-
WAY— Razing of the
fifth state capitol,
which began Feb. 6,
1966, is shown in the
photo here which
shows the roof re-
moved and a portion
of the east and west
walls taken down. In
the lower center may
be seen a number of
the building stones
which were later re-
moved to the state
fairgrounds for se-
curity before being
replaced in the re-
stored structure.
This photo was taken
March 15, 1966.



IT WAS A DEEP HOLE- The excavation for the underground garage and the state histori-

Capitol) is partially completed in the photo reproduced here. Additional excavation fol-

the dirt from the block-square site. The excavation is practically at its full depth in the



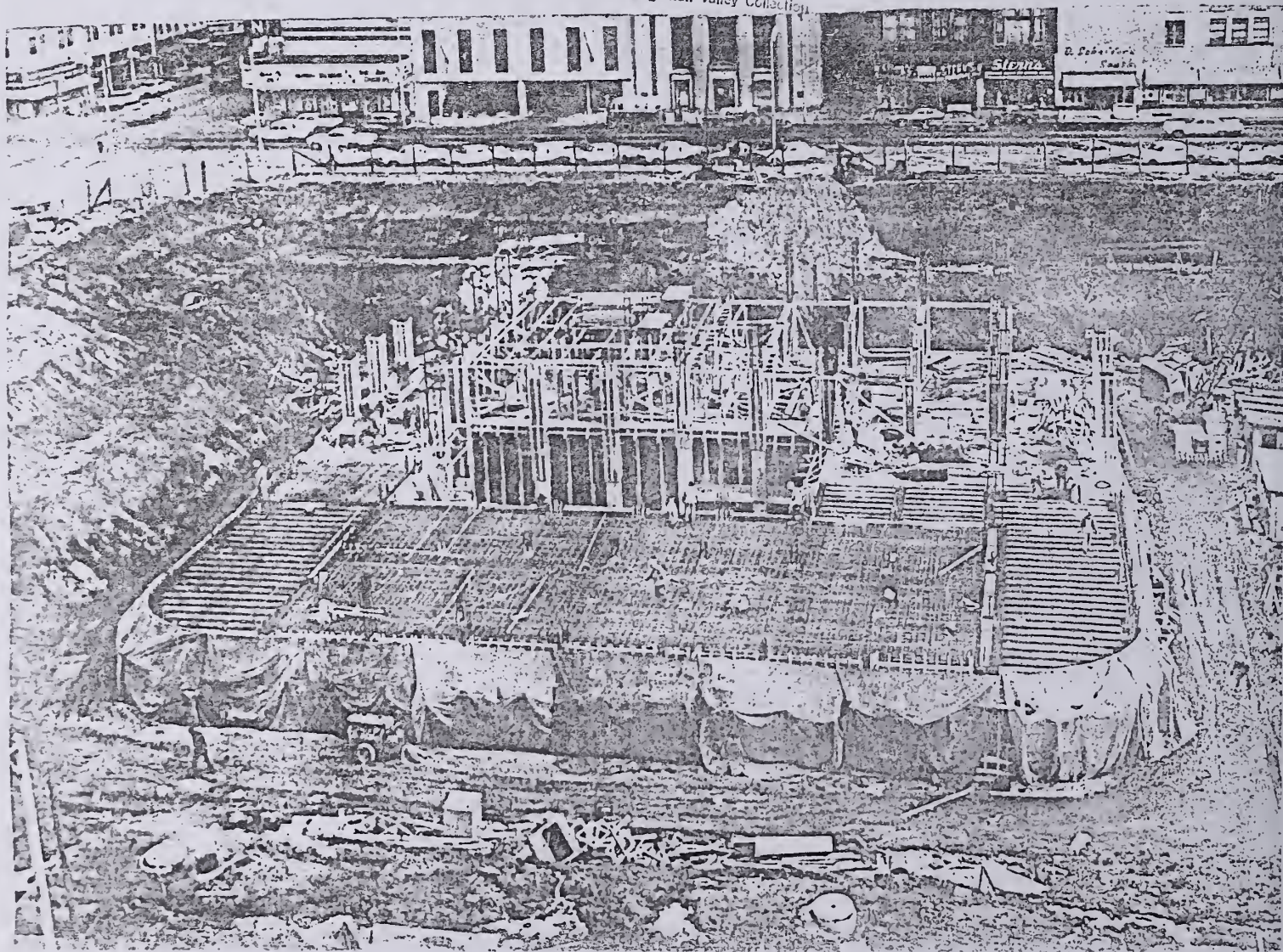
ANOTHER STEP IN RESTORATION— With the first floor of the Illinois State Historical Library already completed, workmen have constructed forms on which the west end of the

Old State Capitol will rest when the walls are constructed. The piers are shown here (at left) as they were being prepared for the concrete pouring. With the current break in the

weather, workmen have been able to speed the concrete pouring and progress on the restoration project is well on schedule.

Jan 25 '67 Alex. Sauer

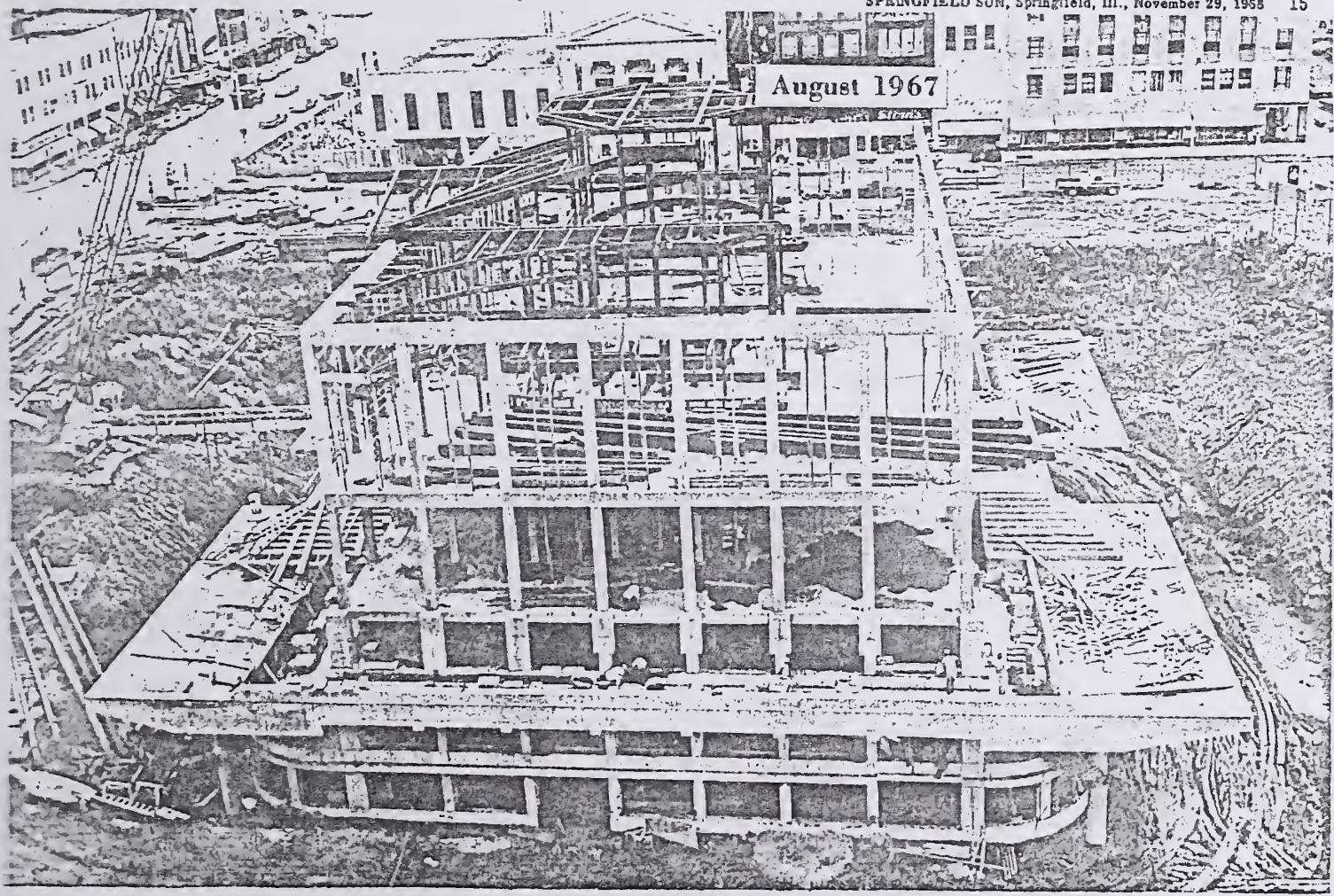
State Capitol Building (1837) -- Restoration (1968) Sangamon Valley Collection



OLD CAPITOL
RESTORATION

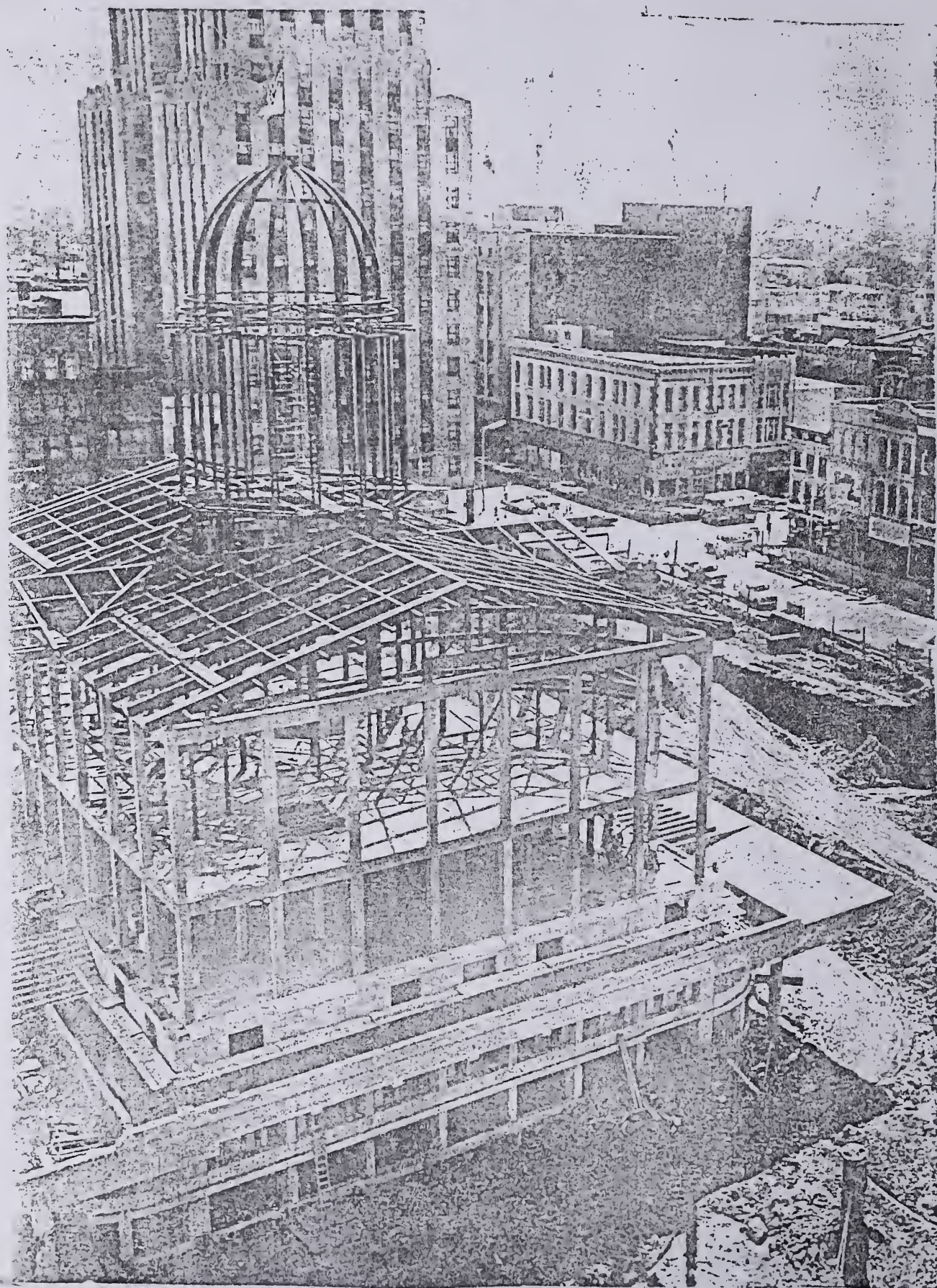
SPRINGFIELD SUN, Springfield, Ill., November 29, 1965 15

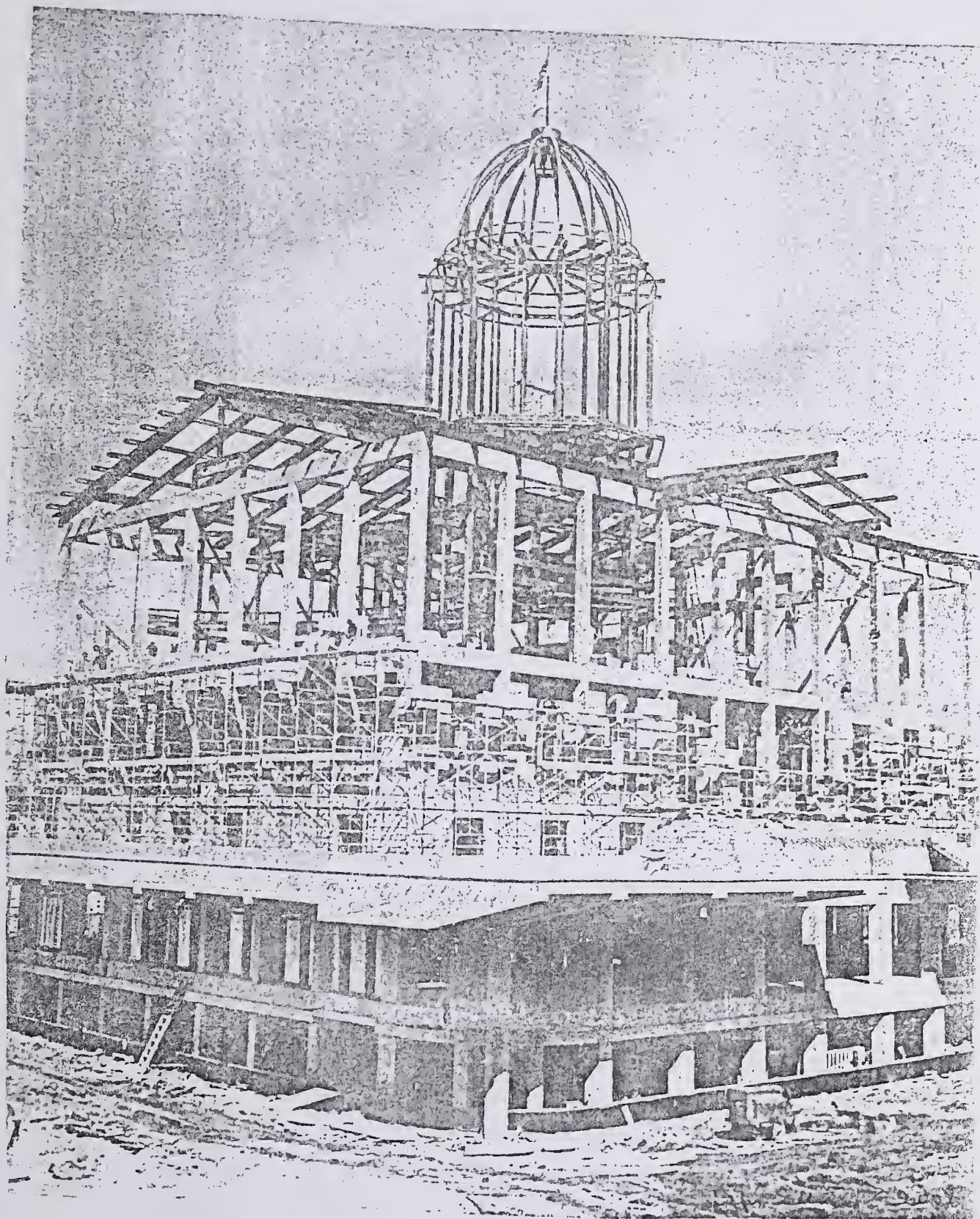
August 1967



UPPER LEVELS TAKE SHAPE- The photo reproduced here, taken at the first of Aug-

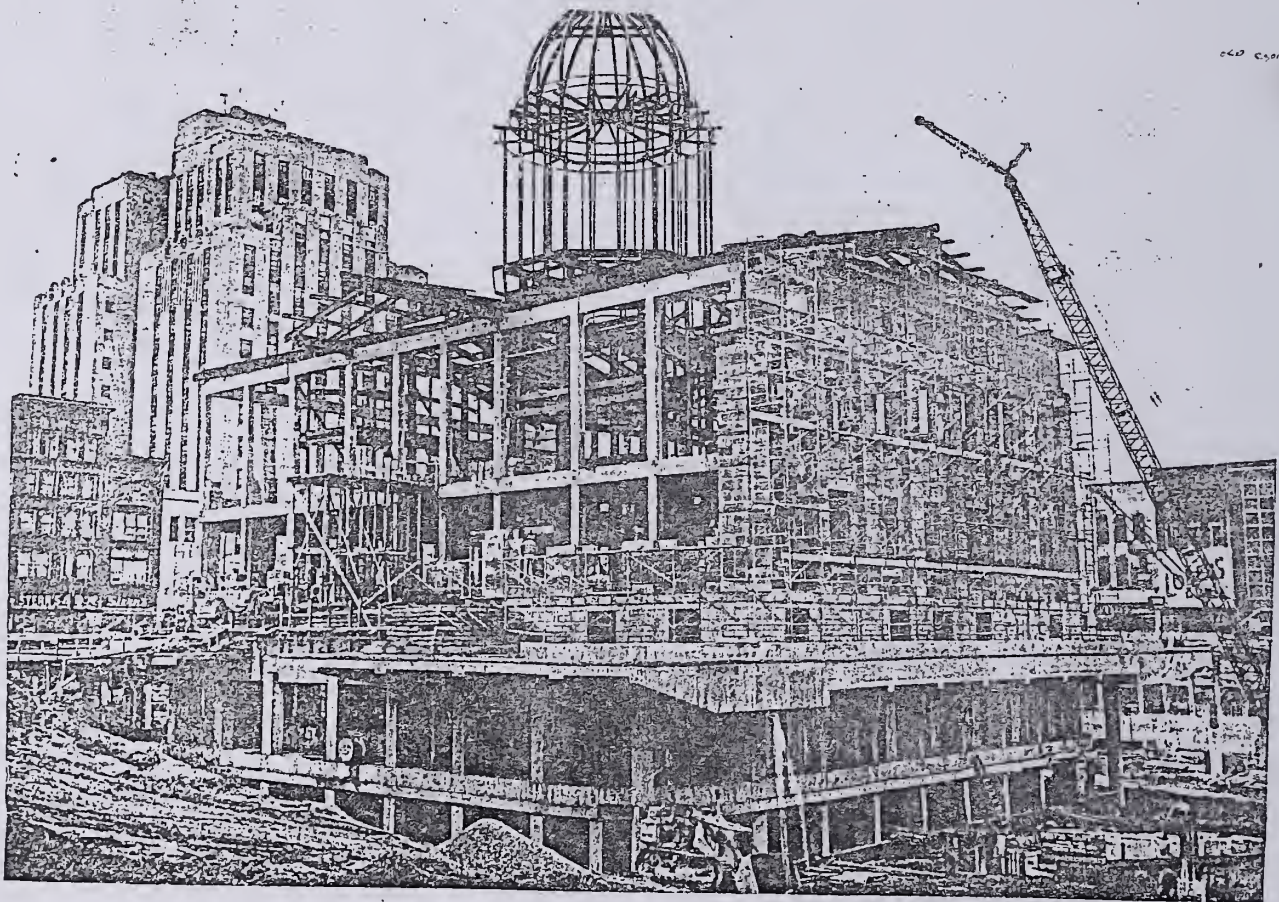
annel Project





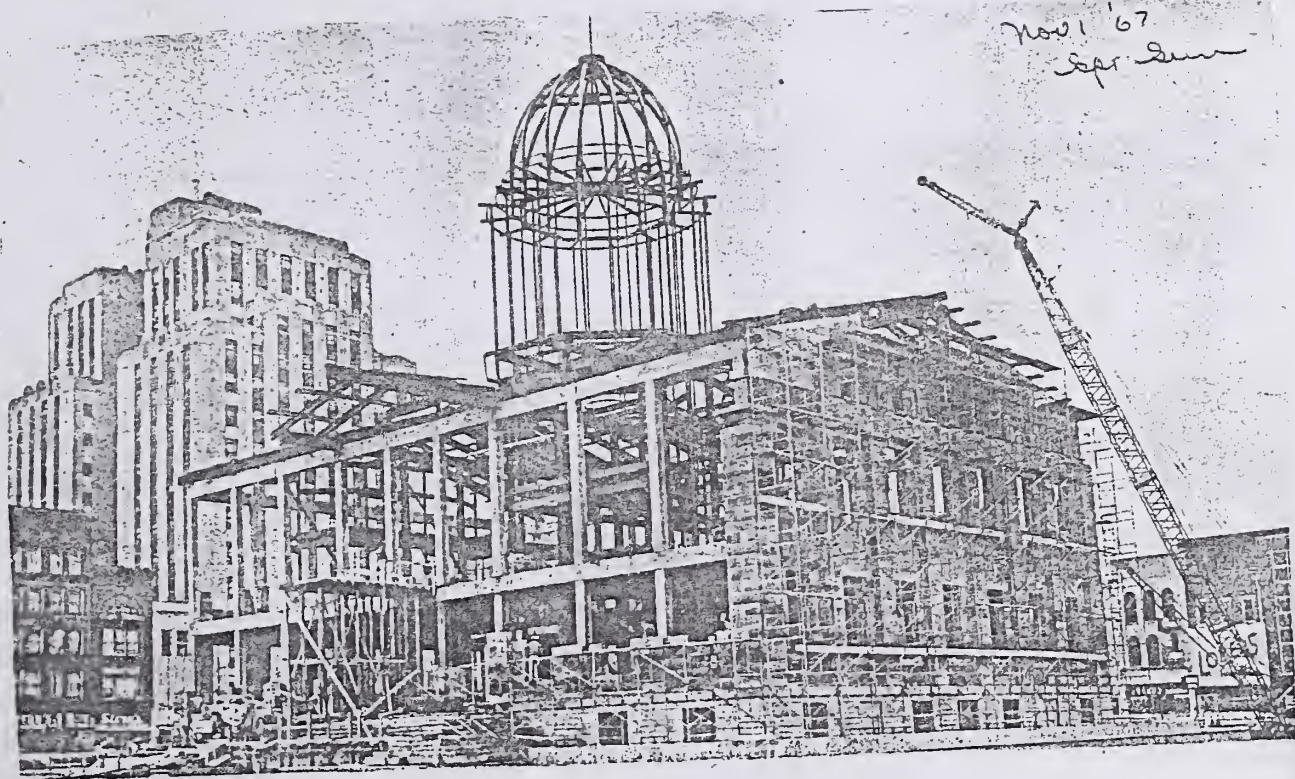
1967

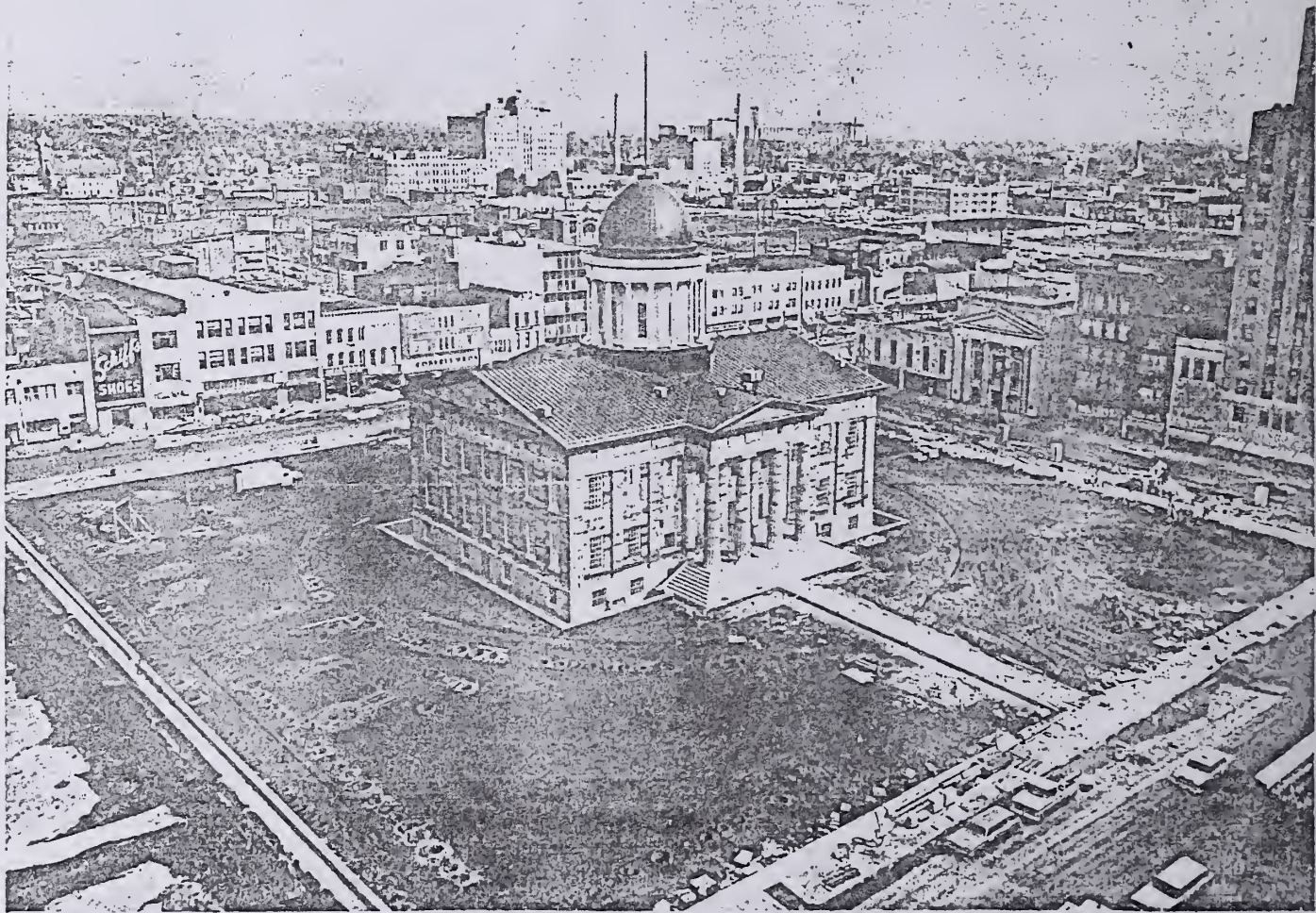
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STONES RETURNED—The sandstone walls

produced here was taken. At the same time—





Sp. Gen. Nov 13 68



Chicago Tribune

SUNDAY

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 15, 1968 / SECTION 7



Sp. Linn Nov 13 68



Chicago Tribune

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 15, 1988/SECTION 7

Keeping Alive Our Springfield Heritage page 34

The Man Who Got to First Bass with the Chicago Symphony page 72

What You Should Know Before You Buy a Suit of Armor page 84

Undertakers Get the Funniest Letters page 19

Springfield, The Town That Remembers Lincoln

It was a thoroly nasty, chilly, drizzly morning when Abraham Lincoln, a successful and popular country lawyer, said good-by to the people of Springfield from the rear of a special Great Western railway car pulled up beside this station. Lincoln was going to the White House, and he was uneasy. "No one who has never been placed in a like position," he was quoted as saying, "can understand my feelings at this hour, nor the oppressive sadness I feel at this parting. For more than a quarter of a century I have lived among you, and during all that time I have received nothing but kindness at your hands. Here I have lived from my youth until now I am an old man. Here the most sacred ties of earth were assumed; here all my children were born; and here one of them lies buried. To you, dear friends, I owe all that I

have, all that I am. All the strange, chequered past seems to crowd now upon my mind. Today I leave you; I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon General Washington. Unless the great God who assisted him, shall be with and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind, and Almighty arm that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me, I shall not fail, I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now. To Him I commend you all—permit me to ask that with equal security and faith, you all will invoke His wisdom and guidance for me. With these few words I must leave you—for how long I know not. Friends, one and all, I must now bid you an affectionate farewell." The people of Springfield have not forgotten that tall man.



Tho the old depot has been restored—it now contains a railroad museum open to the public—it still doesn't look quite the way it did when Lincoln lived three blocks away. In those days, it was a new one-story structure.

Springfield's Lincoln was painted by Don Sinks, a Tribune artist.

Photography
by John Austad

Continued

THERE is absolutely no practical reason why a pile of limestone blocks that once formed the Illinois capitol in Springfield should have been saved, tho it is true that Lincoln, Grant, Douglas, and a host of others served the state within its walls. In it Lincoln made his impassioned "House Divided" speech. It once housed the Illinois Senate, House, Supreme court, and most state offices. And there, in 1865, Lincoln lay in state.

There is as little hard-headed reason for saving a slender brick building across from the Old Capitol. Its floors sagged, its ceilings drooped, and its walls bulged out of plumb. But that long, slim structure was an original out of America's history, housing Lincoln's law offices for 10 years, the Federal District and Circuit courts for 15 years, and the Springfield postoffice for seven—all between 1840-1855.

So?

Everywhere thruout the land the snarling voice of the bulldozer is heard, its tempo set by the steady crunch of the demolition ball, its obligato the melancholy rumble of dump trucks that hurry to haul history away.

"You can't stop progress."

"We need the space for modern living."

"The past be damned, let's look to the future."

***The Old State
Capitol, abused
by inept
architects of
the past, has
been reclaimed.***

The present capitol, seen here thru a window in the Hall of Flags, a room honoring Illinois military units, was constructed in the 1860s and '70s. After state officials moved out, the Old Capitol became the Sangamon county courthouse, and gradually fell into a state of genteel shabbiness.





The Old State Capitol was altered while owned by the county—it was even raised and a new first floor inserted. During restoration, it was torn down, then reconstructed over an underground historical museum and a cavernous parking garage (above).

These are the direct, pragmatic words of modern entrepreneurs, our building barons who lay waste to what was once the city as surely as, 100 years ago, they stripped the prairie of its grass and timber. They have a valid point, too often blunted, and it wholly carried the day in many cities. Capitalists all, they'd be horrified to know that an impoverished 18th-century economist would have agreed with their philosophy. "The tradition of all past generations weighs like an Alp on the brain of the living," said Karl Marx.

New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis—all have lost most of their visual history and tradition, offering, in exchange, striated glass towers, massive concrete structures, shopping centers, highways, parking lots, slums. For the most part you cannot see their history; you must go to the library for it. Oddly, it didn't work quite that way in Springfield, where the voices for preservation were heard, perhaps because there the scale of things is small and human. Or perhaps it was just luck. Or maybe Vachel Lindsay, the town's poet laureate, offered the best clue when he wrote:

*It is portentous, and a thing of state
That here at midnight, in our little town
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,
Near the old court-house passing up and down.*

Corny? Ridiculous? Old wives' tale? Perhaps.

Perhaps not. One thing is certain: The town moves its residents to preserve its past.

Dr. and Mrs. E. F. Pearson took the abandoned Clayville tavern 14 miles west of Springfield and restored it as a unique, tangy example of how men lived away from home in the early 19th century. They have created a center showing the arts and crafts of the era, and people come from everywhere to see folk lore, folk art, and to see what the Pearsons have made of this charming old tavern. But too few come. How much money have the Pearsons lost because of their history project? They won't say. They just continue to offer a glimpse of the ways of the past because they think it terribly important.

Another group restored the depot where Lincoln boarded a train to go to Washington and the Presidency. Before departing, he made a quiet, informal little talk that was a literary revelation—his Farewell Address. In the depot there is a museum of the times but it draws too few citizens. Does the depot make or lose money? It's anyone's guess. But if less there be, it's America's gain.

Still another group of residents rebuilt the Ninian Edwards home in which Lincoln often visited and where he was married in 1842. The home cost a lot

Continued on page 38



***The Lincoln-Herndon building is
rich in tales of great men.***

of money to rebuild and is a superb example of how the affluent and influential lived in early Illinois. Do the rebuilders break even, make a little money, or lose some? The owners are hard-headed bankers, business men, physicians, and they shrug off such questions.

Curious? Unusual? Sure. And maybe it's nutty, but the town gets to you after a while. The new general manager of the oldest department store remarked after only a few years in town, "You know, there's a kind of holiness about this place. . . ."



The charisma of Lincoln also touched and changed Gov. Otto Kerner when he came to the town. On his first official visit after his election, he was met by a delegation of Springfield residents who asked him to buy the Old Capitol and restore it for Illinois and the nation. He refused, saying he had more important uses for the million dollars needed to buy it. Months later, the delegation made a second try and found the "good governor adamant. "In all conscience," he said at that time, "I cannot justify that kind of expense when there are so many more pressing needs."

But a year later the governor signed the bill that assured restoration. The shadow of Lincoln must have nudged him. Americans now shall see how it was in government on the prairie in 1840 thru 1876. They will sense something of the time, its spirit, and they will better understand those causes that, even today—especially today—affect the quality of American life.

As is often the case in public matters, the Old Capitol project grew far beyond the original intent of mere restoration. After months of planning and

The restored Lincoln-Herndon building contains Lincoln's law office and desk (left) and the Federal courtroom where he tried many cases (below).

research, the state and its architects, Donald E. Ferry and E. Wallace Henderson, decided to create a square-block complex worthy of Mr. Lincoln. They began by carefully demolishing the entire perimeter of the building, stone by numbered stone. This had become necessary because the building had been gutted of its original style during its many years as the Sangamon county courthouse, a fate that befell it in the 1870s when the state offices moved to the New Capitol five blocks away.

A curious example of such an alteration occurred in 1896 when the county needed more space. Instead of adding a floor to the top, it was decided to raise the entire building and insert the needed floor on the bottom. One suspects the architects were playing games. At any rate, hundreds of screwjacks were set under the building and gangs of men turned them a quarter-turn every time the foreman hit a giant brass gong.

The first floor was inserted, gaining needed space but destroying the symmetry of the original building, and a huge, ungainly cupola was added. How should today's architects correct these—and other—abuses? They decided to level the bastardized building and rebuild it. Once decided, it seemed logical to use the underground space for the State Historical library. And once this was done, it became obvious that the increased flow of tourists and library patrons—over a million a year—would create a traffic jam rivaling Chicago's dreary 5 o'clock frustration.

The upshot was that the entire city block was

excavated to a depth of 45 feet under the capitol, a library was built bolding the capitol on its shoulders, and a parking lot for nearly 500 cars was buried around the library. As with an iceberg, there's a lot below eye level.

It was an astonishing feat for Lincoln's town, and one likely to have amused and pleased him, for he was not a shy man. [In 1836, his secretary-biographers, Nicolay and Hay, said of him: "It was absurd to call him a modest man. No great man is ever modest. It was his intellectual arrogance and unconscious assumption of superiority that men like Chase and Sumner could never forgive."]

It is easy to imagine Lincoln looking at the Old Capitol from his law office across the street and saying to his law partner, William Herndon:

"You know, Billy, when we built it in 1840 we had 2,500 people in town and the building cost \$260,000. Today we have 85,000 people and that's 34 times as many. Now, Billy, if you multiply 34 times \$260,000 you get close to \$9,000,000. It looks like they saved nearly a million because it only cost eight to rebuild it with a library and parking lot thrown in to boot. And the bouquet is sweeter without those privys in the basement."

It was that kind of pragmatism that got the capital moved from Vandalia to Springfield in 1837. State Representative Lincoln gave all the other legislators the pork barrel improvements they wanted under an internal improvements scheme. One wanted a canal, another a bridge, another a

Continued on page 40



road, and some got cash. Lincoln asked nothing for his district . . . until all were satisfied and obligated to him. Then he asked for a little thing—who could deny him?—not much, really, a mere piddling change of scenery for the capital which, quite obviously, ought to be in the center of the state in a place like, say, well . . . Springfield.

There may have been logrolling, pork barreling, frontier chicanery to move the capital to Springfield but, once there, the architects built a superb capitol building. It was then and is now perhaps the finest style of Greek revival architecture in America. It is graceful, functional, sized to its time, utterly pleasing in proportion, tone, surroundings, spirit, and it is a credit to the legislature, Governor Kern, and the people of Illinois. Especially to the people of Springfield who gave most of the \$300,000

required to furnish the interior and all of the \$550,000 needed to build malls to the north and south of it.

It is likely that when the Old Capitol opens—hopefully next March—it will be a pious place filled with visitors who will pass thru it as if in a tomb. All will be gilt, polish, neatness, uniformed guards, and decorum. There'll be no evidence of some Illinois legislators who spoke with feet propped up on chairs, spat on the floor, cursed, fought, and generally showed the temper of the time by using the place as they would a saloon. Eastern visitors, more effete, used to complain of the language, of how judges tilted back and put their feet on the bench, told stories, addressed lawyers in court as Abe, Pokebely, Zeke. We tend to gild our historic lilies, to recreate the past in our own image, refine it, and distort it.

Not so with the Lincoln-Herdon building across the street. The owners of that once ugly building are determined to show it as it was. And it was an extraordinary building, now revealed after sand-blasting to have been built of a soft, pinkish-red brick, with row upon row of generous punched windows, the whole outlined in wood painted white. You could call it Georgian in style but it isn't, really. The native craftsmen 128 years ago designed their own building.

Today's owners describe it as prairie classic. One of them, attorney Robert Oxtoby, says of the restoration, "The federal courts inside were the only ones in Illinois in the mid-19th century but



Lincoln was a popular and prosperous lawyer, and his substantial home (right) reflected that fact. It is the center of Lincoln Plaza, an area of homes and gaslights and boardwalks developed by the city. The Ninian Edwards home (below) is a replica of the house in which Lincoln married Mary Todd.



**The street
in front of
Lincoln's home
glows again.**



they were simple, almost stark, and we furnished them that way. Lincoln's offices were the same with his papers scattered about, layers of dust, the atmosphere one of general dishevelment that indicated the active law practice he had. Notices of sales, political rallies, bankruptcies were tacked to the walls. Boxes for wood stood about. Sand-filled boxes for spittoons were as often missed as hit. The place jumped with legal, political, and social activity. Our aim is to make the office and courts seem as if they were still in use."

Asked what motivated his group to restore the 127-year-old building, Oxtoby replied laconically, "It needed doing."

Asked about the cost of the restoration, he showed immediate wariness. As much as a quarter of a million dollars? he was asked, for that is the figure

bruited about Springfield.

"Perhaps," he replied, but his answer and manner suggested that it cost more.

As much as four hundred thousand?

"Well," he replied, as his four partners shifted about uneasily, "let's not go into that. Let's rather consider the building and the men in it."

All further questions about cost and motivation were parried. The Lincoln-touched people of Springfield are close-mouthed about their peculiarity. Oxtoby skillfully ended the interview and started thru the building, talking about the Lincoln lore that abounds in it.

First came the museum, to be opened in 1969. It is filled with documents discovered under the attic floor by the project historian, James Hickey. It

seems that the attic was once a storeroom piled high with papers and ledgers from the law offices, courts, and stores below. Around the turn of the century, six wagonloads of this paper were hauled away and burned to clear the way for a floor. However, several hundred pieces—going back to 1829—fell between the joists, and workmen simply floored over them. This remnant is worth thousands of dollars today.

There will be an orientation program. The restorers are determined that none shall pass thru the building without having the opportunity to gain some insight into the life and men of the times.

As the orientation moves thru those free-wheeling times, it will become obvious that the town had been a beacon to poor men of talent and ambition who were possessed of the energy to drive ahead. James

Continued on page 42



***The Clayville
tavern: warmth
from the past.***



Shields, who had an office in the building in 1940, was an example.

Shields was an impoverished Irish migrant who was blessed with an enormous talent for seizing the main chance. At first he taught school, then became a lawyer, served in the legislature, became state auditor, and then a major general in the Mexican war which gave him the wounds and war record needed to project himself upon the national arena. After the war, he became a United States senator from Illinois . . . and Minnesota . . . and then Missouri—he was the only man ever to be a senator from three states.

Albert T. Bledsoe had offices next to Lincoln. He began as a West Point graduate and classmate of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. Saving the country interested him less than saving souls and he became first a Methodist and then an Episcopal minister. The ministry paled and he turned to law, taught mathematics, wrote books, became a colonel in the Confederate army, then undersecretary of war for the Confederacy and, finally, founded the Southern Review, a literary publication of con-

siderable merit. He was Lincoln's friend in Springfield, but he became the President's enemy during the war.

On and on goes the story of the various men in the Lincoln-Herndon building. There was Edward D. Baker, Lincoln's friend after whom he named a son. In the floor of Lincoln's office there is a trapdoor thru which Lincoln once leaped to save Baker from a fight in the courtroom below. Lincoln dropped beside Baker like an angry eagle to face the astonished assailants, grabbed a clay water jug, and growled, "I'll bust this jug over the first man to lay a hand on Baker." No one did. The trapdoor, 125 years later, is still there.

Baker became a United States senator and a colonel in the Union army. He was killed at the battle of Ball's Bluff and Lincoln wept.

Lincoln's spirit dominates the building and touches those willing to be touched. It is the only place in Springfield where one can stand, listen, and feel how it was with Lincoln the breadwinner, the working lawyer, in the middle years of his life.

His time in the building coincided with the birth of two sons and the death of one of them. Here he invented and patented a device to lift stuck steamers off sandbars. Here he wrote poetry, perhaps not great, but passing fair. Consider these verses from a long poem about a mentally ill young friend:

*I've heard it oft, as if I dreamed,
Far-distant, sweet, and lone;
The funeral dirge it ever seemed
Of reason dead and gone.*

*To drink its strains, I've stole away,
All silently and still,
Ere yet the rising god of day*

Had streaked the Eastern hill.

*Air held his breath; the trees all still
Seemed sorrowing angels round.
Their swelling tears in dew-drops fell
Upon the list'ning ground.*

Except for his home, in this building Lincoln was most truly himself, happy with the law but happiest when riding and working the 8th judicial circuit, the "mud circuit" as it was called by the judges and lawyers who slogged on horseback or in buggies twice a year along its 400 miles. Lawyers had to bustle for a living and, for most, their gain wasn't much. One senses it as one stands, listens, feels the peculiar mystique of those simple law offices and that Spartan court.

Outside the building and facing north, one sees, in tandem, both the Lincoln-Herndon building and the Old Capitol, linked, a study in contrast. The Old Capitol has massive stone walls 42 inches thick that seem as ancient and eroded as a Greek temple, whereas Lincoln's building is as long and slim as a reclining . . . Lincoln. Both structures enrich our history.

Lincoln's home, his tomb, his boyhood home of New Salem are well known, visited by a million tourists a year. Now there is the depot, Lincoln's law offices, the federal courts where he practiced, his postoffice, the Old Capitol, Clayville tavern, and museums right and left. It is a wondrous thing what public and private money have made of Springfield's past. But when one seeks for reasons why it happened in Springfield, but in few other

Among the most ambitious private restorations have been the Clayville tavern (left), a former inn 14 miles west of Springfield on the road to New Salem, and the Freeman Hughes home (below), a Victorian house built in 1878 after Lincoln's death. The tavern was restored by Dr. and Mrs. E. F. Pearson, shown here, and is open to the public. The Freeman Hughes home, which still contains most of its original furniture, was restored by Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Barringer. Mrs. Barringer (right) and Mrs. Floyd Barringer (left) are in the parlor.



American cities, one has to pause and ponder intangibles, including the words of Vachel Lindsay:

*He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.
He is among us: as in times before!
And who toss and lie awake for long
Breathe deep, and start, to see him
pass the door.*

There is in God's green Illinois absolutely no other reason for that quite special quality of concern for history that, like a benediction, suffuses Lincoln's town.

Times Out

Thursday, February 8, 1990

History / Bill Furry

A Lincoln's eye look at local history

Visitors to Springfield often mistakenly look to Abraham Lincoln for an understanding of the sociological and economic development of nineteenth-century Springfield, as if the railsplitter—or his home at Eighth and Jackson—somehow characterize the stature and soul of the city. But to do so is to malign both the man and the city.

Most of the Springfield Lincoln knew is gone, but a surprising number of 1860-era dwellings remain, which makes reconstructive guesswork possible when one looks for the nineteenth-century city the prairie lawyer knew. And there are many photographs to help us reconstruct what time, and "progress" have taken from us.

When twenty-eight-year-old Abraham Lincoln threw his saddlebags across his horse and rode out of the hollows of New Salem towards his new home in Springfield, the new capital was, in the words of Lincoln



The Fowler Mansion, an Italianate home at the northeast corner of South Second and Wright Street (now Lawrence Avenue) was a Southern estate in the grand style, with elaborate landscaping and white marble statuary on the grounds. Dr. Edwin S. Fowler, a government contractor during the Civil War, bought the home and grounds from John E. Roll in 1862, and Fowler and his wife, Sophia, lived on the grounds until the 1890s, when the home was gutted by fire. Note the white horse grazing on the grounds near the front porch.

biographer Stephen B. Oates, a "crude frontier town: hogs rooted in the dirt streets, and stables and neglected privies gave off a pungent stench when the wind was up." But Springfield, says Oates, was a step up for Lincoln, who had never before lived in such a civilized locale. Like the precocious new prairie capital, Lincoln was rough around the edges, but brimming with untapped potential. But there their similarity ends.

Lincoln, the rough-hewn son of poor Kentuckians, was never to be a Springfield social darling. Several rungs down the economic and social ladder from the bankers, lawyers, merchants, and politicians who flourished about the city streets in carriages, the future president never achieved the status of his more successful Springfield neighbors. His modest home, a single-story dwelling for several years prior to the 1856 two-story expansion tourists visit today, was a far cry from the mansion estates that dotted the city map as late as the turn of the century. Lincoln never became a wealthy man, not even by Springfield standards. In 1860, Lincoln's former law partner, Stephen T. Logan claimed assets of more than \$100,000 a year; Lincoln's assets in that same year totaled just under \$19,000. And there were several Springfield lawyers and merchants

continued on next page ➤

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Springfield —

Scenes from a Greek Revival Village on the prairie

◀ continued from previous page

in the same camp as Logan. In his twenty-five years as a Springfield lawyer and politician, Lincoln did rise up the social ladder, but from poverty into the middle class, not from middle class to gentrified wealth. His growth was introspective and philosophical rather than ostentatious.

Springfield, on the other hand, was all show. The third largest city in the state by 1840 and the new state capital, the city had plenty of room to grow. And it was growing daily. Between 1848 and 1860, the town more than doubled in size, growing from 3,900 to 9,400 in just twelve years. Contrary to popular belief, Springfield was not a predominantly Southern town in Lincoln's day, although it had been in its earliest years. By 1860, 47 percent of the city's residents hailed from the North; only 23 percent came from the agricultural South. The remaining 30 percent of the population was made up of immigrants—Irish, Italian, Portuguese, French.

In his 1989 book, *Greek Revival America*, Roger G. Kennedy, director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, identifies Springfield in its early years as a Greek Revival Village, a label which may escape those of us who must look at the city in its twentieth century trappings. In keeping with the national infatuation at that time with all things pertaining to Ancient Greece—the cradle of democracy—nineteenth century Springfield architects and planners hopped on the Greek revival bandwagon. And Springfield architect John F. Rague, who drew up the plans for the Old State Capitol, says Kennedy, led the cultural charge. In the frontispiece to *Greek Revival America* is a stunning photograph of the sweeping entryway staircase in the Old Statehouse with its elaborate scrolled Ionic columns. And there is plenty of other photographic evidence to support Kennedy's assertion that Springfield was a Greek Revival Village.

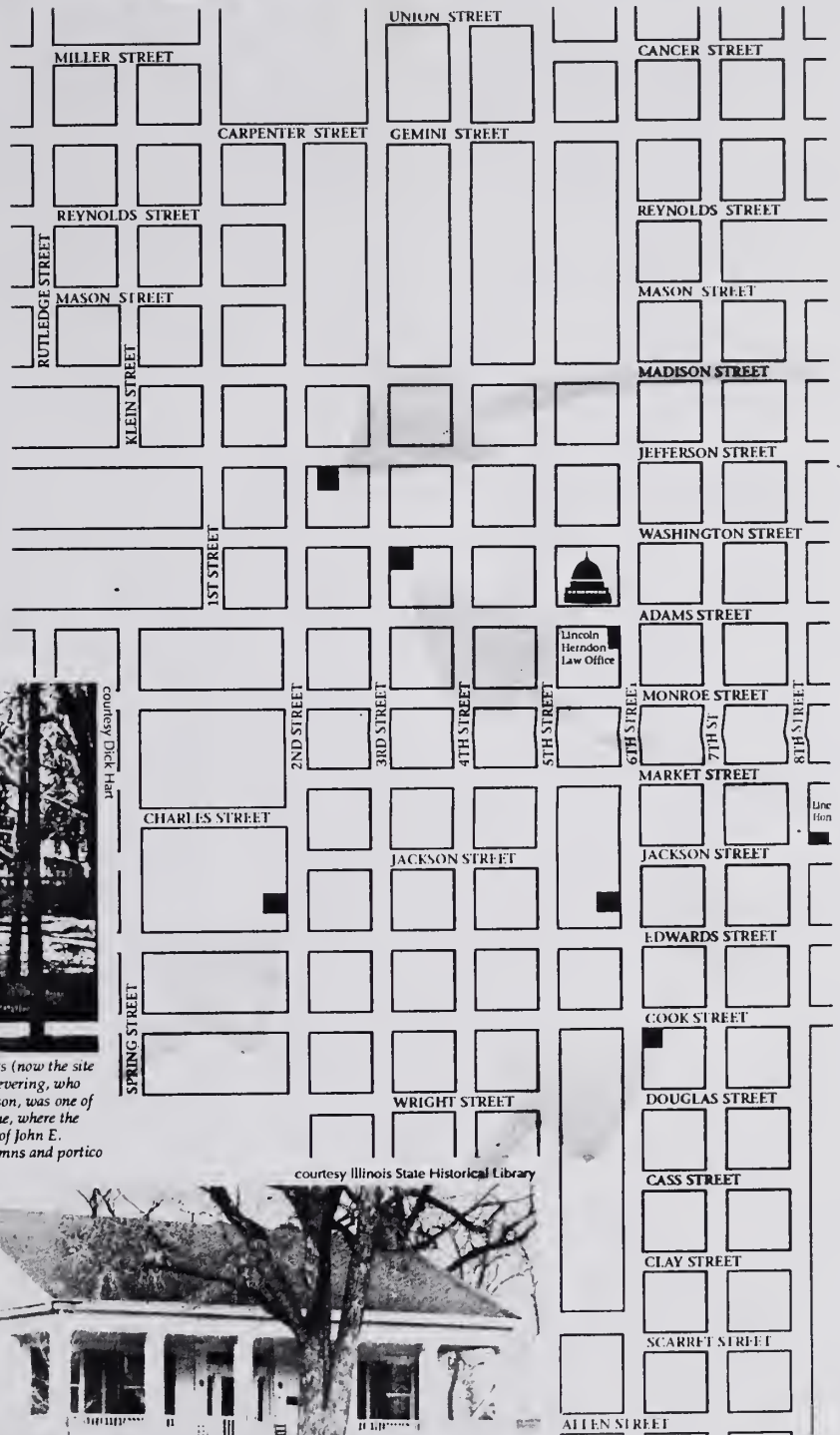
These photographs from the files of the state Historical Library, the Sangamon Valley Collection, and the private collection of Springfield attorney Richard Hart, present a bit of the architectural diversity of Springfield in the nineteenth century, a city in every way as fascinating and complex as its most famous citizen.



This reclusive mansion and estate at the corner of Second and Edwards streets (now the site of the Centennial Building and the state archives) was built in 1838 by Lawrason Levering, who bought the property from Ninian Edwards. Mercy Levering, the daughter of Lawrason, was one of Mary Todd's closest friends. The mansion was just to the south of the Edwards' home, where the Lincolns were married. It went through several hands before it became the property of John E. Owsley. Owsley, a retired landowner, bought the house in 1856, and added the columns and portico after his family home in Kentucky. The home eventually became the property of Bishop George F. Seymour of the Episcopal Church, who lived there until 1918. Leading up to the secluded home was a large circle drive with a fountain in the center.



The Elijah Iles home, built in 1832, is the oldest house still standing in Springfield. It once dominated the landscape at the corner of Sixth and Cook streets. Built in the French style (it is believed to have been copied from the Pierre Menard home and other French Colonial homes in Kaskaskia, where Iles had lived), it has Greek revival adaptations, especially in its use of porch columns, triangular pediments, windows over the doorway, and the long, steep entry staircase. The house was moved to its present location at 1825 South Fifth Street in 1910.



- 1860

courtesy Dick Hart

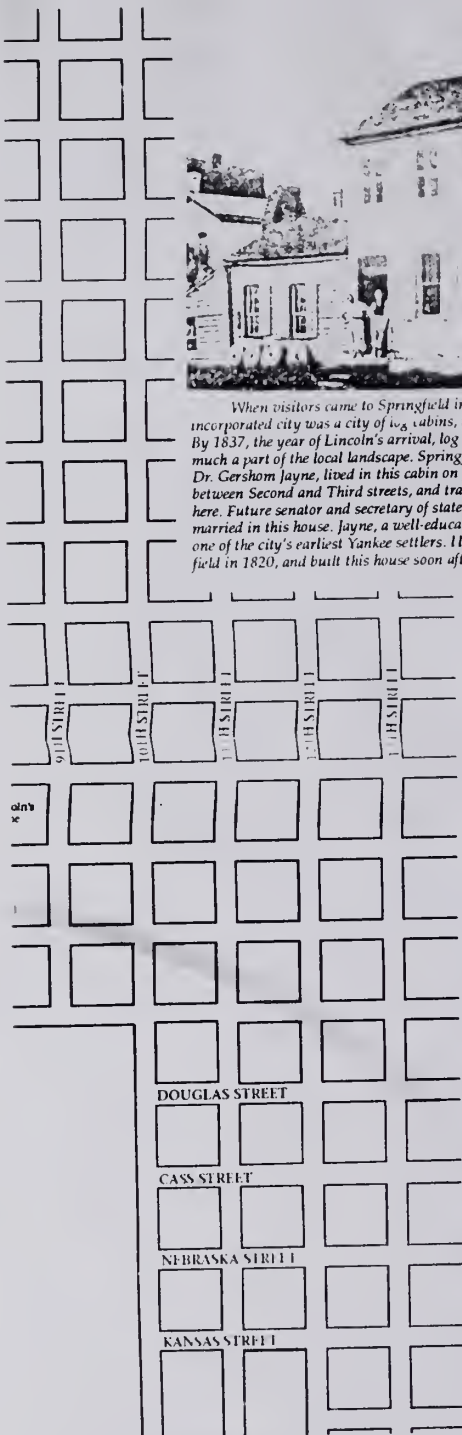


When visitors came to Springfield in the 1820s, the newly incorporated city was a city of log cabins, not stately mansions. By 1837, the year of Lincoln's arrival, log cabins were still very much a part of the local landscape. Springfield's first physician, Dr. Gershom Jayne, lived in this cabin on Jefferson Street between Second and Third streets, and travelers often lodged here. Future senator and secretary of state Lyman Trumbull was married in this house. Jayne, a well-educated New Yorker, was one of the city's earliest Yankee settlers. He arrived in Springfield in 1820, and built this house soon after. Jayne died in 1867.



courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

The First Presbyterian Church, built in the 1830s, no longer commands a view at the corner of Third and Washington streets. Its architectural style—low pitched roof, triangular pediment, columns, and portico—was typical of the Greek revival movement in Springfield architecture. The spire, of course, is gothic, but a Greek revival church without a spire looks a bit like a pagan temple. Springfield's First Presbyterian Church had Kentucky origins, and fractionalism over the slavery issue soon brought division within the fold; the organization of the Second Presbyterian Church resulted. The Lincolns, owing in part to Mary Lincoln's Kentucky ties, kept their pew at the First Presbyterian. The building was sold to the Lutherans, who razed it in 1912.



courtesy Sangamon Valley Collection

The George W. Chatterton Sr. home, built in 1857, was about as Greek Revival as Lincoln was an abolitionist. The home stood on the site of the present day Marriott Building at 509 South Sixth Street. The gothic spires, elaborate ornamentation, towers, embattlements, and sharp angles contrasted with the rest of the city's decidedly

edly Greek architecture, but it was a sign of things to come. Chatterton came to Springfield from New York and opened a jewelry store and the opera house which bore his name. He lived next door to Jacob Bunn at the foot of Aristocracy Hill.

This street map gives a general layout of Springfield when Lincoln walked and rode its streets. Aristocracy Hill—a stretch of Sixth Street between South Grand and Jackson Street that in 1870 would be dominated by mansions—was not yet the undisputed seat of Springfield wealth, although the Pease Mansion (500 South Sixth), the Vredenburgh house (1119 South Sixth), the Chatterton house (509 S Sixth), and the Jacob Bunn home were all built by 1857. Second Street, from Market Street (Capitol Street) to Wright Street (Lawrence Avenue) featured some of the city's grandest homes, including the home of Governor Ninian Edwards which occupied the spot where now sits the Centennial Building. Another pocket of wealth was North Fourth Street. The Edwards Place, built in 1833, is the oldest Springfield home still in its original location. In 1860, the east side of Springfield was virtually undeveloped. Springfield's first black settler, a Haitian named William de Fleurville, was one of the city's largest property owners on the east side. Most of the few early black settlers (about 200 in 1860), lived to the north and west of the city. There were many immigrants too. By 1855, there were nearly 350 Portuguese citizens settled between Ninth and Tenth streets on Miller Avenue.



Photos for the Tribune Terry Farmer/AP

The Springfield skyline contains the old and the new: the domed Illinois State Capitol (left center), the modern tube-like Hilton Hotel (center) and the 124-year-old brick Bunn warehouse (right foreground).

History losing place in Springfield

Preservationists stymied in saving Lincoln-era buildings

By Hugh Dellios

Chicago Tribune 10-20-91

SPRINGFIELD—Portraying Abe Lincoln with a New Wave spiked hairdo, the colorful "We're historically happening" posters in store windows around this city suggest that preserving the past is a top priority for the current caretakers of Lincoln's hometown.

Yet the hair of historical preservationists has also been standing on end in the state capital in recent months.

Their frustrating, decade-long battle to save what's left of Springfield's rich historical legacy came down to the crumbling, 124-year-old Bunn warehouse this month, and they were horrified, though not exactly shocked, that they lost this one too.

When a defiant City Council refused to grant landmark status to the building—in an "emergency" vote so fast that even the owners' attorney was startled—Springfield's oldest commercial building became the latest historical structure

See Springfield, pg. 4



Photos for the Tribune Terry Farmer/AP

Springfield preservationist Jerry Jacobsen at a grocery his group is planning to restore.



Photos for the Tribune by Terry Farmer/AP

Those trying to preserve Springfield's past would like to see more renovated old buildings such as these on 6th Street.

Springfield

Continued from page 1

destined to meet a wrecking ball.

Preservationists say their cries of anguish are not just for the warehouse but for a long list of Lincoln-era homes and storefronts that town fathers have failed to protect, leaving visitors to Springfield with little sense of how things looked in the 1850s and '60s when Illinois' No. 1 son was practicing law and campaigning for president.

Almost 500,000 eager visitors from around the world showed up last year to see the sites where Lincoln slept, worked, prayed, orated and finally was laid to rest. They could also visit the present and old state Capitols and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Dana Thomas House.

But some visitors express disappointment once they have arrived. After learning in grade school to associate Lincoln with log cabins and then being pummeled with tourist brochures on historical Springfield, many expect to see something resembling Virginia's Williamsburg or even quaint Galena, in the northwest corner of the state.

Instead they find that the 19th Century community Lincoln knew has been replaced by a bustling government town of about 100,000 with modern office buildings, an endless sea of parking lots and the tube-shaped Hilton Hotel, which dominates the skyline. Tourists are able to visit the smattering of historical sites in a couple of hours.

"I was surprised it was so modern," said Connie Simmonds of Ofallon, Mo., visiting Lincoln's home with her husband and 4-month-old child. "All I ever heard in school was that Lincoln grew up in a log cabin. I didn't expect it to be all old, but I didn't expect it to be as big and commercialized as it is."

"It's Anytown, USA," said Nancy Wagner, statewide programs director for the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. "Five years ago, there was so much there that made Springfield unique. It's very, very clear that it's open season in Springfield on historical preservation."

Preservationists complain that over the last several decades the city has neglected to save scores of historical buildings, leaving only a

few isolated, privately-preserved buildings. They recite stories about older buildings demolished for parking lots or drive-up banks, including the ornate Orpheum Theatre, the Culver stone works, the old Lincoln library and the Lincoln Hotel.

Some say it's a mixture of apathy and a reluctance to tamper with private property rights that has created a situation where preservationists are always one step behind the bulldozer.

"Yes, we've been negligent. This City Council, I'm sorry to say, has not been as enthusiastic as I would have wanted," said second-term Springfield Mayor Ossie Langfelder. "But most of it was lost decades ago. Newness appeals to the public."

But Langfelder and other residents point to many individual projects, especially the restoration of office buildings and storefronts around the town plaza and the \$8 million restoration of the old Capitol building by the state in the late 1960s.

Of course, the battle between developers and preservationists is being fought all over this young country with a short memory, from Provincetown where the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts to the streets around the Alamo in Texas.

In places where history has won out, such as Galena, there is at times a backlash by homeowners who feel constrained by strict building codes and feel historical commissions set up to preserve historical flavor can act more like "hysterical" commissions.

In Springfield, the confrontation has filled both City Hall and newspaper letter columns.

While a clear majority of letters backs property rights, others compare Springfield to bombed-out Berlin in 1945 and suggest the city's name be changed to White Oaks, after the new mall built on the west side of town.

Some people criticize a three-year-old historical sites commission for being too timid. The city passed a historical preservation ordinance in 1988, but it only allows the commission to recommend landmark status.

The final decision rests with the City Council, which has designated only 10 buildings as landmarks—other than federally protected Lincoln homesites—and only one without owner permission. The council also refused to designate five city-owned structures as landmarks.

In one case earlier this year, the council gave landmark status to the Burkhardt mansion on the edge of town, but it then allowed the owner to demolish it anyway and replace it with a trailer park. A judge later said that saving the building would have been an economic hardship on the landowner.

"They're not just a City Council. They have a sacred trust for the state of Illinois, the whole country and the whole world," said Jerry Jacobson, chairman of the Historic Preservation Association of Springfield. "This city is a

shrine to democracy and freedom and everything this country stands for. It's not just another town with a bunch of old buildings."

When Jacobson moved to town in 1981, he wanted to live in a Lincoln-era house but found that nobody even had a list. Of 240 homes that his group later identified, he estimates 36 have been razed.

In a change of tactics, the historical commission voted this month to submit an exhaustive list of nationally recognized sites they feel it's necessary for the city to designate as landmarks, including most of the downtown historical district.

That's intended to prevent the last-minute confrontation with owners who already have demolition permits in hand.

City fathers, who say they want Springfield to be a progressive city with a good job and tax base, say they cannot force property owners to come up with the steep costs of historical preservation, and that the preservationists are "unrealistic."

"I agree with what they're trying to do, but I disagree with their tactics," said Irv Smith, a Springfield alderman and the Sangamon County GOP chairman.

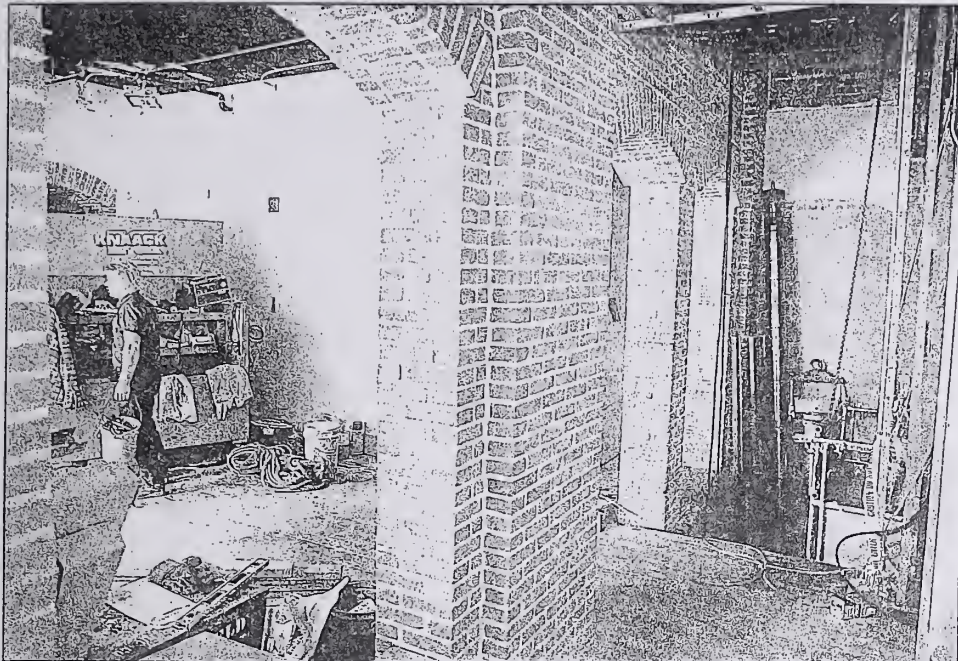
While some also blame state government for paving much of downtown for its thousands of employees' cars, others say preservation has not been a priority in Springfield because many residents are tired of hearing about Lincoln and have never been to see his tomb.

"We have enough history," said Ken Robertson, a Springfield resident showing off Lincoln's home to his New Jersey relatives last week. "And there's still not enough parking lots."



Photo for the Tribune by Terry Farmer/AP

This restored house at Monroe and Walnut Streets is one of Springfield's dwindling number of 19th Century residences.



Work on the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices will include a new elevator (right) that is accessible to the handicapped.

State Journal-Register/Chris Young

Historic law offices take a short recess

Lincoln-Herndon site reopens after construction temporarily closes doors

By JENNI DAVIS

STAFF WRITER

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices were closed Tuesday while work continued on a \$523,000 construction project that will eventually move the historic site's offices from the Old State Capitol to the law building and add a gift shop.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, with funds from the Illinois Capital Development Board, is also installing an elevator

Although tours have continued during the construction, electricity had to be turned off Tuesday while workers installed the handicapped-accessible elevator. The site, at Sixth and Adams streets, will reopen today.

The addition of the offices, gift shop and elevator are part of a construction project Historic Preservation started two years ago.

David Blanchette, spokesman for Historic Preservation, said construction should be completed by Aug. 1 and the gift shop should open then.

"We decided to put in a gift shop because, between the (law offices) and the Old State Capitol, we had a lot of visitors asking where they could buy Lincoln souvenirs," Blanchette said.

Agency officials have not decided what will be sold in the shop, but the souvenirs will not be anything sold in downtown stores, he said.

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, where Abraham Lincoln once worked, attract more than 50,000 visitors annually. The Old State Capitol

next door draws more than 175,000 visitors each year.

If the Illinois General Assembly passes legislation this session allowing admission fees at state historic sites, Blanchette said Historic Preservation might charge one fee to include the law offices and the Old State Capitol.

"Right now, it's just something we're considering," Blanchette said. "If we did (charge fees), it would be sometime down the road — maybe in a year or two."

Durbin favors amendment to balance budget

Calls switch of position a 'last resort'

By JAY FITZGERALD

STAFF WRITER

Saying he was doing so reluctantly, U.S. Rep. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, on Tuesday came out in favor of a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Durbin, who has opposed similar measures in the past, said his switch on the position comes as a "last resort" because Congress and the president have failed to come close to eliminating the federal government's deficit, which today is estimated to be as high as \$400 billion.

Predicting that Congress ultimately will pass a variation of a balanced budget amendment, Durbin announced he's co-sponsoring an alternative plan that would force lawmakers to implement the amendment — through a combination of either deep spending cuts or tax increases — before the November general election.

"It should be more than a symbolic vote or a (campaign) bumper sticker," said Durbin, who warned of painful spending reductions in just about every area of the federal government.

Durbin's Republican opponent in the newly drawn 20th Congressional District, John Shimkus, criticized Durbin's new stand on the amendment as politically motivated.

"I think he is doing the politically expedient thing to do," said Shimkus. "I'm just glad he's awakened and had a new revelation."

But Durbin emphasized that he plans to push Congress and President Bush to take politically risky action by cutting the deficit by \$40 billion by Oct. 1, about a month before the general election.

U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, D-Illinois, has another balanced budget amendment pending before Congress.

"I do not come to this point of supporting an amendment to the Constitution with enthusiasm."

Rep. Dick Durbin
D-Springfield

Durbin said his amendment, though, wouldn't take four to five years to implement, after state legislatures have time to ratify it.

Instead, once Congress approves an amendment, it would then have to adhere to its provisions immediately while the amendment is officially ratified by the states, Durbin said.

Some of Durbin's provisions include: requiring the president to submit a balanced budget each year; allowing the president to submit a balanced budget only if he signs an emergency declaration of "National Economic Urgency"; prohibiting Congress from exceeding the president's recommended spending level and the triggering of automatic spending cuts if Congress and the president fail to balance the budget.

Durbin's plan exempts the surpluses in pension trust funds (such as Social Security) from the automatic spending cuts.

"I do not come to this point of supporting an amendment to the Constitution with enthusiasm," said Durbin. "In fact, I am very fearful that this approach may immerse the federal government in controversy and litigation for years. But my fear of this amendment is not as great as my fear of a balanced deficit."

Visit the 'stuff' of legend



The Lincolns' first born, Robert, donated the home, above, to the state of Illinois, which in 1972 turned it over to the federal government to be administered by the National Park Service. Today, visitors can take a 15-minute guided tour. **Right:** Lincoln's famous nose is rubbed for good luck.

By PHIL MARTY
Knight Ridder Newspapers

SPRINGFIELD — Ask anyone if they've been to Springfield and chances are they'll say, "Yeah, my parents took us there when we were kids to see the Lincoln stuff." Or, "We went down there on a school trip to see the Lincoln stuff."

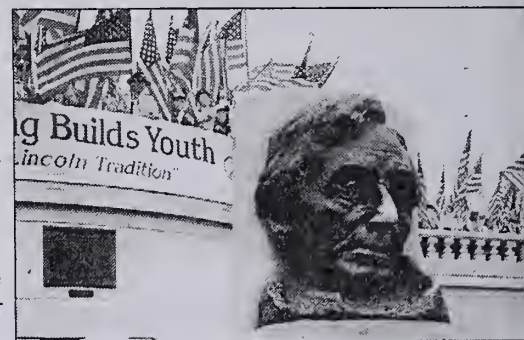
I sense a pattern here. Which is good, because that's why I've come here — by train — to see the Lincoln stuff.

Bill Sherer paints an intriguing picture of Abraham Lincoln (not Abe — a name he detested) as he stands on the third floor of the restored Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, at the corner of Adams and 6th Streets downtown. Lincoln, whose formal education was practically nonexistent, had arrived in the state's new capital in 1837 after having studied law on his own for three years to pass the exams required to become an attorney. By 1843, he and partner Stephen Trigg Logan were doing well enough to move to this third-floor space, for which they paid \$100 a year, a substantial rent for the time.

Sherer, who works for the Illinois Historic Preservation

Agency, which administers this site and several others in this town of 111,000, points out a trapdoor on the floor that was placed there when the building was originally constructed as a warehouse. (Some believe 95 percent of the flooring in this office is from the Lincoln years, so visitors are literally walking in Lincoln's footsteps.) Below the trapdoor was the federal courtroom.

Sherer tells how Lincoln,



always looking to improve his knowledge of the law and his courtroom tactics, would prop open the trapdoor with a book, then stretch out his 6-foot 4-inch frame on the floor and observe the courtroom theatrics through the sliver of space.

In 1844, Lincoln formed a partnership with William Herndon that flourished, though it moved into a smaller space at the rear of the building when Lincoln was

See SIGHTS, next page

LINCOLN

From B1

elected to Congress and moved to Washington from 1847 to 1849.

Sherer notes that a central area on the third floor was a common area used by lawyers, jurors and anyone else who might wander in. "There was no such thing as a sequestered jury in those days," he wryly observes.

Besides having easy access to the federal courts in the building that housed his office, Lincoln had to walk only across the street to find the Old State Capitol, which, from 1839 to 1876, housed all three branches of state government.

The building, which was dismantled, and rebuilt in 1966, is rich in Lincoln lore. Like the law offices, most of the furnishings visitors see here weren't in the building originally, but they're from that same time period.

John Kjellquist, a computer consultant with a love for history, volunteers as a guide at the Old Capitol "because I get to go beyond the ropes" that keep visitors from getting too close to history. He notes that period pieces had to be used to furnish the restored building because "when the state moved out, they auctioned off most of the things. Also, you have to remember that in the early days, the state didn't have much money, so people who worked here brought their own furniture."

Perhaps the most authentic room in the building is the Governor's Reception Room, which Lincoln used as his headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. Kjellquist points out a woodcut made of the room during that time, which allowed historians to accurately restore this room.

Keeping with campaign practices of the day, in which the people came to the candidate rather than as is done today, it was here that Lincoln sat for long hours talking one-on-one with any citizen, no matter how humble, who had made the journey to hear his views.

Hangings on a wall near the reception room is a near-lifesize painting of Lincoln used as a campaign poster. But something about the painting doesn't look quite right.



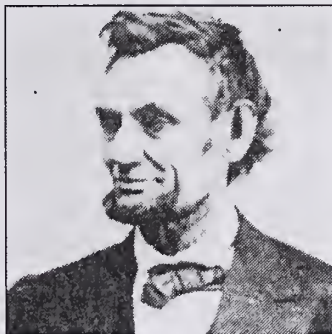
A mantelpiece holds items that would have been present in a home in the 1850s. Visitors are free to touch the handrail going upstairs, the only item that Mr. Lincoln touched that's accessible to the public. **Below:** A picture of Lincoln in the later stages of his life.

Kjellquist explains that painters would mass produce likenesses of generic bodies, then when a candidate needed one, they would add that man's head to the body, which in Lincoln's case was a body much too short.

On the top floor of the Old Capitol is Representatives Hall, the part of the building that may feel Lincoln's imprint most heavily. In 1858, Lincoln began his Senate campaign against Stephen Douglas in which he addressed the slavery issue and its effect on the country, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Though Lincoln lost that election, it gave him a national presence and ultimately led him to the White House.

When Lincoln returned from the White House, a little more than four years after he left Springfield and less than a month after the Civil War ended, it was to Representatives Hall, where his body lay in an open casket for two days, while an estimated 75,000 of his fellow citizens somberly filed past.

A few blocks from the Old Capitol, visitors queue up, holding time-stamped tickets, awaiting their designated time to walk through the house that Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln called home from May 1844 until 17 years later when they departed for the White House and Lincoln said prophetically, "I now leave, not knowing when, or



whether ever, I may return."

In this house, three of the Lincolns' four sons would be born, and one would die. Reflecting the hardships of the time, only their first-born, Robert, lived to adulthood, and it was he who eventually donated the home to the state of Illinois, which in 1972 turned it over to the federal government to be administered by the National Park Service.

Perhaps it's the structured timing of the 15-minute tours due to the thousands who visit each year, or the admonitions to "stay on the gray carpet and please don't touch anything," but the home, to me, has a sterile air to it.

Not that guide Liz Goodman, a young Britisher doing a stint here as a volunteer in preparation for a career wrapped in history, doesn't try to breathe life into the house. The parlor, far from a huge room, she tells us, was once the site of a

party to which Mary invited 500, putting arrival and departure times on the invitations. (Fortunately, only 300 showed up.)

It was in this parlor, too, that a committee came from Chicago in 1860 to notify Lincoln of his presidential nomination by the Republican Party.

Prior to going upstairs, Goodman delivers a treat to her group of visitors. "When we go upstairs, be sure to hold on to the handrail," she says. "There are two reasons: One, so you don't fall, and two, because it's the only thing in the house I'm going to let you touch that Mr. Lincoln touched."

A few blocks from the Lincoln Home Visitor Center on South 7th Street, visitors can get closer to history at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, which Old Capitol guide John Kjellquist listed among "a lot of neat little places in this town."

The last member of the GAR, made up of Union veterans of the Civil War, died in 1956 at the age of 109. The keeper of this modest museum these days is the National Woman's Relief Corps, and more specifically Mary Phelps, volunteer curator who, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, March through November, stands ready to answer questions and point visitors to interesting bits of history they may have overlooked.

Most notable is a somewhat faded, though in remarkably good condition, folded flag that hangs in a modest frame. The flag was taken from the President's Box at Ford Theatre the night of the assassination. One edge of the flag was ripped by John Wilkes Booth's spur as he leaped to the stage after firing the fatal shot.

And finally, there is the Lincoln Tomb, about a mile and a half from downtown in Oak Ridge Cemetery. On an unseasonably warm Saturday in early April, it's impossible to keep a lump from forming in my throat as I look upward, taking in the tomb entrance, the single name "Lincoln" chiseled deep into the stone, the sculpture of the man they called the Great Emancipator and finally the granite obelisk that soars 117 feet into a cloudless, bright blue Midwest sky.

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Edwards Place's interior to be renovated

By CHRIS DETTRO

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Jun 29, 2011 @ 10:56 PM

Last update Jun 30, 2011 @ 06:26 AM



Edwards Place, the 178-year-old building that has housed the Springfield Art Association since 1914, will be taking on a new interior look — actually an old interior look — in conjunction with the association's centennial that begins next year.

Art association members and historical preservationists earlier this week heard recommendations from Anne Sullivan, principal of **Sullivan Preservation** in Chicago, on how to restore the inside of the home at 700 N. Fourth St. to its mid-1800s appearance.

Edwards Place is the oldest home in Springfield on its original foundation. Once a center of social activity in Springfield, the home saw prominent citizens and politicians such as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas entertained at lavish dinner parties, while the grounds played host to many summer picnics and political rallies.

Sullivan and her team were commissioned by the art association to create a framework for future restoration of Edwards Place to a historically appropriate appearance, said Erika Holst, curator of collections for the art association.

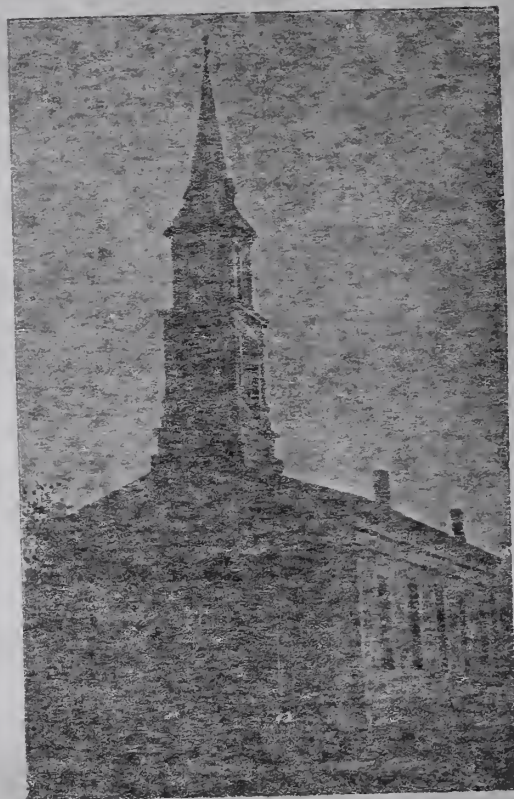
Sullivan put the total cost of renovation at around \$700,000, and Holst said the association will begin fundraising in conjunction with the centennial.

"A capital campaign will start with the centennial," she said. "Our target is to do it room by room."

She said Sullivan recommended the entryway be the first area restored because that's the first thing people see when they come into the house.

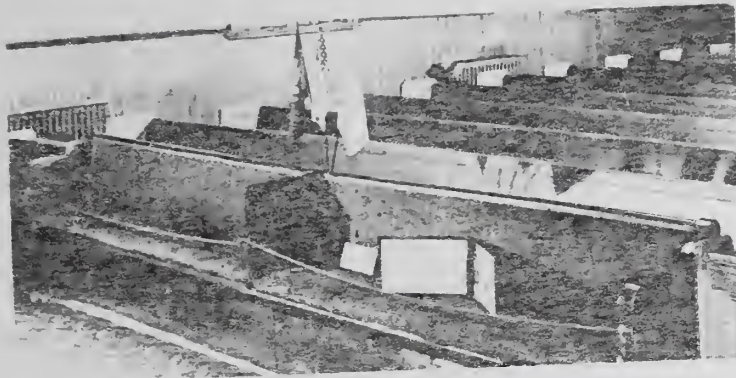


Abraham Lincoln and the
First Presbyterian Church
of Springfield, Illinois



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1843-1872)

WHERE LINCOLN ATTENDED



THE LINCOLN PEW IN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

IN LINCOLN'S DAY the First Presbyterian Church was located at the Southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets, just South of the present G. M. & O. passenger station. Abraham Lincoln's association with the Church began with a very sad event in the life of the Lincoln family. On February 1, 1850, their second son, Edward B. Lincoln, died. Dr. James Smith, who was then the Church minister was asked to conduct the funeral service. This circumstance led to a long and lasting friendship between Dr. Smith and the Lincolns and led Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln to this Church. Thereafter they attended services regularly until the time of Lincoln's election to the presidency.

At that period the funds required for maintaining and operating the church were raised largely by pew rentals. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln rented Pew No. 20 in the old church which was located on the East Side of the center aisle in the fifth row from the front. Their attachment to the Church and to this particular pew is indicated by a letter which Mrs. Lincoln wrote to her friend Mrs. Samuel Melvin two months after arriving in Washington, in which she requested a promise "that on our return to S—— we would be able to secure our particular pew to which I was very much attached and which we occupied some ten years."

Mr. Lincoln, however, never formally joined the Church. Mrs. Lincoln became a member on October 13, 1852. Thomas (Tad) Lincoln was baptized in the Church on April 4, 1856. Abraham Lincoln made an address in the church on August 30, 1853, on the subject of Colonization, a movement of that day which had for its purpose the purchasing of freedom for the slaves and furnishing a refuge home in Africa for those who desired to settle there.

Mr. Lincoln was one of three persons appointed by the church trustees to assist Dr. Smith in defending a suit pending in Presbytery in 1853.

At the time of Lincoln's funeral in the state capitol building in Springfield a funeral service was also held in the church.

Mr. Lincoln never saw the church building which we now occupy, as it was not built until 1868, three years after his death. However, it would not be accurate to say that the present church has no association with Lincoln. The bell from the old church which tolled the hour of church service in Lincoln's day, hangs in the present steeple, and still performs the same service. The church records since its organization in 1828, including those of the Lincoln period, are kept here. When Mrs. Lincoln died on July 16, 1882, her funeral service was held in the present church. Dr. James A. Reed, who was then the minister, preached the funeral service. He compared Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln to two lofty pines struck by the same bolt of lightning, one felled to the ground, the other though shattered, lived on.

The church building of Lincoln's day was razed in 1912 and the site is now occupied by commercial buildings but it is marked with a silver plaque to indicate its historical background.

The Lincoln pew from the old church which had been marked with an appropriate silver tablet has been given an honored place in the front of the present sanctuary and has become a Lincoln shrine. If you who visit here will let your imaginations work, you can still see, though dimly, the figure of a tall, gaunt man seated in the Lincoln pew, and the figures of his wife and three sons seated beside him.

ROGER E. CHAPIN



INTERIOR OF CHURCH BUILDING WHERE LINCOLN ATTENDED. THE DRAPED PEW IS THE ONE LINCOLN AND HIS FAMILY OCCUPIED.

Welcome to
Abraham Lincoln's
bank, the oldest
bank in Illinois



We are proud to be a
part of Springfield's
exciting history
and a link to
the life and legacy of
Abraham Lincoln

(so far, he's our favorite
President/customer)

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Welcome to
Abraham Lincoln's
bank, the oldest
bank in Illinois



We are proud to be a
part of Springfield's
exciting history
and a link to
the life and legacy of
Abraham Lincoln

(so far, he's our favorite
President/customer)

A. Lincoln, Depositor

On March 1, 1853, a man well known throughout central Illinois as an honest, competent attorney walked into the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Robert Irwin, secretary of the company, was in the large, high-ceilinged banking room behind an open horseshoe-shaped counter, laboriously making pen and ink entries in great leather-bound ledgers. Mr. Irwin proceeded to open an account with the \$310 his acquaintance Abraham handed him. Across the top of a blank page in Depositors Ledger B, he wrote, "A. Lincoln." From that day until the day of his death, Abraham Lincoln was a customer of the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company.

When coupled with what we know of Mr. Lincoln's life, his bank account becomes an important historical document. The \$310 Lincoln deposited when he opened the account was withdrawn five weeks later. A second deposit of \$400 was made October 11, and then withdrawn on November 18. A transaction or two a year is all the account shows until 1859, when it suddenly became active. During that year twenty-five deposits, ranging from \$24.75 to \$625 were made and eighty-four sums, varying from \$1.60 to \$505 were withdrawn. This activity level continued throughout 1860 and into 1861, until the Lincolns' departure for Washington. Each year until 1865 shows a number of transactions, many of which were made by President Lincoln's agent in Springfield, Mr. Robert Irwin. Mr. Irwin made regular deposits of local rents collected and interest and principal payments on notes and bonds due to President Lincoln.

As an attorney, Lincoln's income from his law practice averaged \$3,000 a year, borne out by his account deposits. The year 1859 was one in which Lincoln was free from politics, and in which his professional reputation, due to the favorable notice he received from his debates with Stephen Douglas the year before, was at its highest. Yet his total deposits amounted to only \$2,739.25. On this income Lincoln was able to support his family in a fashion consistent with his own national prominence, to keep his oldest son at Phillips Exeter Academy, and still to maintain a running balance of several hundred dollars.

In addition to Lincoln's general income level, the bank account yields information about specific fees. In September 1857 he was one of counsel in the famous Rock Island Bridge case, tried in the United States Court in Chicago. His only deposit that autumn was made on September 26, for \$400, which almost certainly represents his fee. Just six weeks earlier he had collected his largest fee – a sum of \$4,800, for which he had brought suit against the Illinois Central Railroad Company. The draft was deposited on August 12, and the entire amount withdrawn on the thirty-first, to be divided between the two law partners, Lincoln and William H Herndon. Lincoln's last important lawsuit was the Sand Bar case, tried in Chicago in March and April 1860. Upon his return to Springfield he deposited \$325, in all probability his remuneration for that case.

Lincoln practically abandoned his law practice and devoted his entire time to the campaign against Douglas from early summer until late autumn 1858. This meant thousands of miles of travel, most of the expense borne by the two contestants. Lincoln was compelled to marshal every financial resource, and he himself confessed, after the election, that he was without money even for household expenses. Yet during that period in 1858 there was a balance of \$360 in his account at the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company. When Lincoln left Springfield in February 1861 to assume his Presidential duties in Washington he withdrew \$400 and purchased three \$100 drafts on the Metropolitan Bank in New York. The years of Lincoln's Presidency show a gradually increasing balance in his account and at the time of his re-election in 1864 it had mounted to more than \$4,500. After his death, David Davis, the administrator of President Lincoln's estate, took charge and on June 16, 1865, closed the account and withdrew the balance of \$9,044.41, about one tenth of Lincoln's total personal estate.

From *The Marine Bank*

The Story of the Oldest Bank in Illinois

Paul M. Angle





The Oldest Bank in Illinois

By the mid 1800s, Illinois had been a state little more than thirty years and it was growing with astonishing speed. Two thousand additional inhabitants in the 1840s brought Springfield's population to forty-five hundred, a respectable figure in view of the fact that only Chicago, with thirty thousand inhabitants, could count its population in five figures. Springfield was well located, accessible for trade and the transportation of goods by railroad to and from the Illinois River and then to the great cities to the north and east.

One great obstacle to the growth of commerce however, was the lack of adequate banking facilities. Following the failure of the State Bank in Springfield and the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown, the state constitution, adopted in 1847, required that every bank charter granted by the legislature be submitted to the people of the state for rejection or ratification. Since this was an impractical procedure, Illinois businesses were without the financial advantages afforded by banks in other states.

Some merchants occasionally safeguarded customer's money, but more as personal favors than as business transactions. Men of substance frequently made loans to individuals, but there was no institution in Springfield where borrowers could obtain money. While constitutional obstacles made the establishment of banks difficult, there were no provisions against insurance companies and powers for such companies were broad. Local businessmen soon had a remedy to the bank shortage.

In January 1851, the General Assembly of the state of Illinois enacted "that there shall be established in the city of Springfield an insurance company to be called the 'Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company'." It was given authority to write marine insurance upon vessels and goods and to underwrite the loss of buildings or houses by fire. It could also receive money on deposit and loan it at the legal rate of interest. It was given authority to hold real estate and securities mortgaged for the payment of debts and to buy and sell bills of exchange. In short, in addition to the right to carry on an insurance business, the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company was granted all the powers necessary for the conduct of a complete banking business except the right to issue currency. In the spring of 1851 stock was issued and preparations were made for the commencement of business.

Early in July 1851, the **Springfield Fire Marine and Insurance Company** opened its doors for business in a classically beautiful building once occupied the State Bank. By the end of the first month of operation, depositors had entrusted \$434.75 to the company's care, loans totaled \$880.88 and assets amounted to \$112,000. Local attorney Abraham Lincoln maintained an account with the company beginning in 1853. Over the last half of the 1800s, the company not only grew, but also was able to weather the effects of financial panics, the Civil War and the failures of many other banks in the state. Although it ceased to do insurance business in 1855, the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company continued to expand its banking activities. It retained its original name until May 1884 when the name was changed to the "**Springfield Marine Bank**," the name which is still carved above the columns on the building's west façade. In 1992, the name changed to Bank One, and in 2005 a merger with JPMorgan Chase changed the name once again. Today, ledgers, bound in crumbling calfskin, show the first steps of the institution which, by virtue of more than 150 years of continuous existence, has become the oldest bank in Illinois.

On the reverse is a copy of a state auditor's warrant made out to Abraham Lincoln. It served as his "paycheck" for service as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives in late 1840 and early 1841. The December 1840-March 1841 session of the legislature—the first to be held in what is today known as the Old State Capitol—was Lincoln's last. He did not run for reelection in 1842.

**Old State Capitol State Historic Site
Springfield, Illinois**

**Historic Sites Division
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**

AUDITOR'S OFFICE ILLINOIS, Springfield, March 1. 1841

\$ 292

No. 6466

Cashier of the
State Bank of Illinois, Pay to *A*
Lincoln or order, the sum of *Two hundred twenty two* dollars
and cents, it being in full for his services as a member
of the General Assembly, special session 1840 and session 1840 & '41.

[Countersigned and Registered.]

John D. Whiteside Treasurer.

W. H. Smith
Auditor of Public Accounts.

[The holder of this warrant will be entitled to six per cent. interest from date, until redeemed by the State.]



#6649 from Lincoln Home NHS, Springfield



#6648 from Lincoln Home NHS, Springfield



ABOVE IS WEST SIDE OF THE SQUARE AS IT APPEARED IN 1853.

Engraved - Handwritten 1853

Springfield's First Store



Springfield's first store, launched in 1821 was a rough log building at Second and Jefferson streets, owned by Elijah Iles. The above drawing is made from descriptions handed down from original settlers. The store was also the postoffice and general meeting place. Mr. Iles was forced to bring his goods from St. Louis by boat to Beardstown and then overland but business was sufficiently good that he was forced to hire a clerk, John Williams, who became the city's first banker.

FAMILY ALBUM

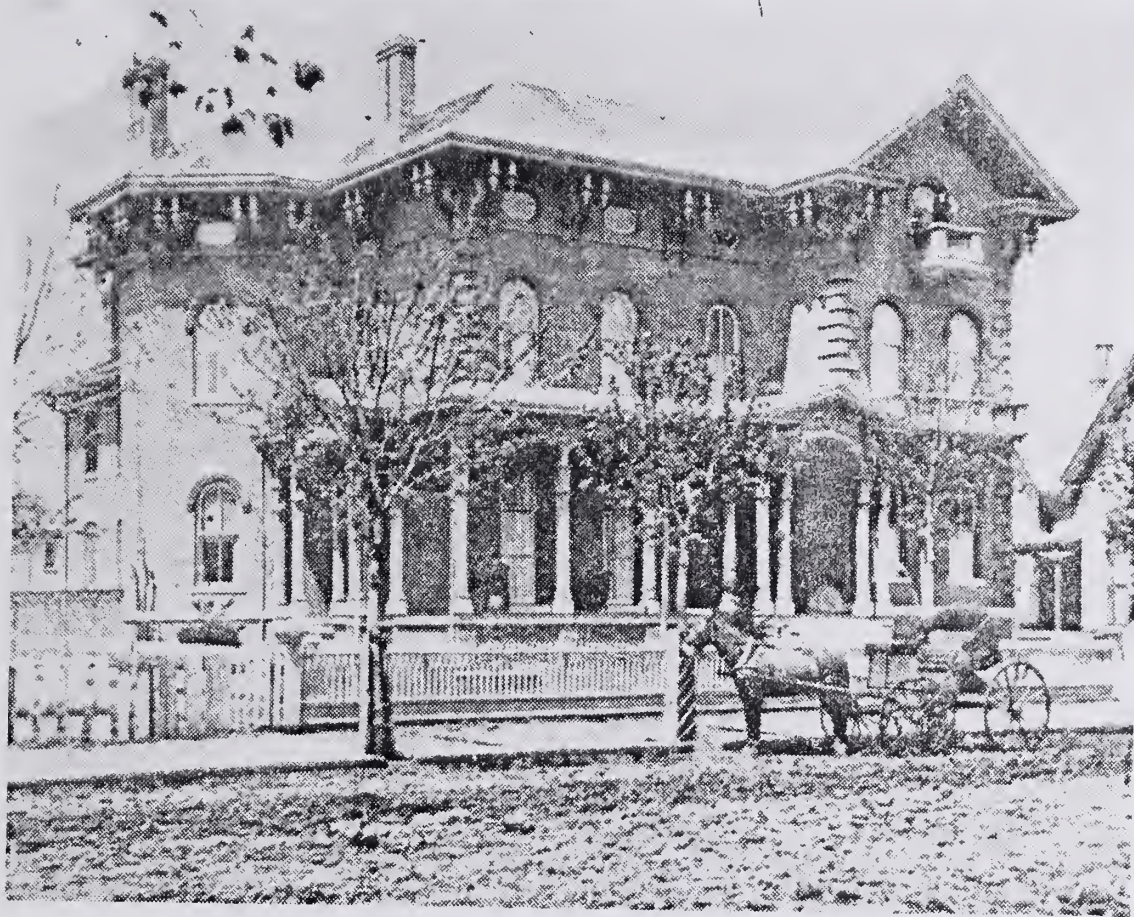


(From The State Register Collection.)

JOHN KELLY'S PIONEER CABIN AT SECOND AND JEFFERSON STREETS—

'Way back in the days when the site of Springfield was merely a fairyland of woodland beauty, a rugged old Irish bachelor by the name of Elisha Kelly came to Illinois to seek a home. On a morning in May, 1818, as he stood on the highest knoll on the banks of Spring Creek, in the west end of the Springfield of today, his folded arms enclosing his faithful "Kildeer" rifle, this lovely aspect burst upon his enraptured vision: "The red orb of day, in all his glorious power, lazily raised his head above the magnificent old monarchs of the forest on neighboring Chinkapin Hill. A delicious fragrance from inanimate nature rose like incense on the opening of day. Birds with beautiful plumage, from the soft dull brown of the dove to the brilliant carmine and dark blue of the redbird and the bluejay, darted from tree to copse with affrighted screamings. Wild turkeys and geese added to the discord and saucy squirrels shook their bushy tails tantalizingly as they frisked from limb to limb of the noble old elms. On the creek banks a herd of deer gathered for the matutinal thirst-quencher and morning dip into the clear water. Never had man seen a sight more entrancing." His spirits in a fever of delight over this prospect, Elisha Kelly quickly retraced his journey to the North Carolina home and brought back his father, Henry Kelly, and his brothers, John, William, Elijah and George. In 1819, John Kelly, the oldest brother, built the log cabin shown here—the first building of any kind erected in Springfield—on what is now the northwest corner of Second and Jefferson. William Kelly also built a cabin—on the site of the noted old Gehrmann residence on North Third street, but that was a year or so later.

THE FAMILY ALBUM



(Photograph courtesy of Robert L. Ide)

A NOTED SOUTH SIXTH STREET MANSION OF THE SIXTIES—

There are vivid memories of this imposing old residence which stood for three-quarters of a century at 523 South Sixth Street, and which was razed only last June. The older citizenry knew it both as the Sheldon house and as the Wesley Kimber home, but to the modern generation it was "the Little residence." It was built during the Civil War by O. M. Sheldon, later a resident of Chicago. At that time there were only three other residences on that side of the block—those of Jacob Bunn, Obed Lewis and George W. Chatterton, Sr., while across the street in the block just south was the home of J. W. Knickerbocker, all large homes and quite pretentious, which caused the neighborhood to be known as "Aristocracy Hill." Mr. Sheldon occupied this house only a few years. In 1874 it was acquired by Wesley F. Kimber of the dry-goods firm of Kimber & Ragsdale. It was during his occupancy that the house became known as a social center, a reputation which continued during the later ownership of G. J. Little. Many parties and balls were given there over a long period of years. Mr. Little bought the residence along about 1890 but shortly thereafter leased it to the Sangamo Club for a club house. The Club occupied it only until 1894, when the Little family again took it over as a residence. Mrs. Little died in 1915, and Mr. Little in 1919, after which it was occupied by his only daughter and his son-in-law—Mr. and Mrs. Glen Davis Smith—until the year 1935. A feature which attracted much attention when the house was razed was the hand-carved spiral staircase leading from the first to the third floor. This old picture, from a stereoscopic view of the early days, shows the neat paling fence and the boxed trees in front, with a horse and buggy standing in the unpaved street of the period. At right may be seen a portion of the familiar gabled house of the Chatterton family, an excellent example of Elizabethan architecture.

This is the picture th t Mr. Barker gave
me while out to your house one day. I
copied it and the Illinois State Register
ran it in their "Family Album" that I was
telling you about.

Historic Landmark, Once Hotel, To Be Razed

Site At Fourth And Washington Housed Lincoln Office

When workmen soon begin demolishing the building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets, it will mark the passing of an historic Springfield landmark. The building, shown in the accompanying picture as it appears today, often was frequented by Abraham Lincoln and was for many years the Revere house, popular Springfield hostelry.

The building will be razed within the next few weeks and the vacated property sold, it has been announced by the Springfield Marine bank, which owns the property. The structure extends north from Washington street to the Silas hotel. Renters have received notice to vacate at once.

In recent years the building has been occupied by a grocery store, a laundry, a clothing establishment, barber shop and sleeping rooms.

House Lincoln Offices.

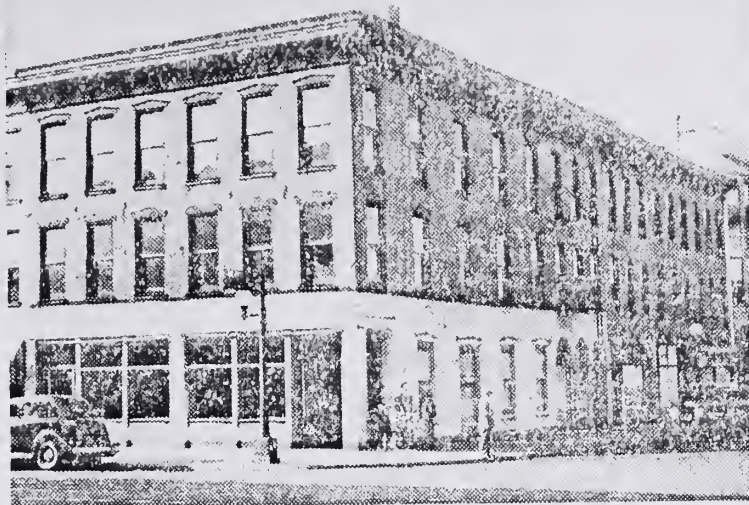
Erected in 1855 by Joe Johnson, prominent Springfield hotel keeper in the days before the Civil war, the building housed offices of Lincoln on several occasions.

Late in Dec., 1860, in anticipation of the meeting of the legislature Jan. 7, 1861, when Governor Richard Yates would need his office for his own use, Lincoln and Nicolay moved from the state house to Johnson's building.

Just a week before he left for Washington a notice appeared in the Illinois State Journal, Feb. 4, 1861, that Lincoln would see visitors only at his office, Johnson's building from "3½ to 5 o'clock each day. This was to give him more time to write the first inaugural.

John Fisk Nash, one of the secretaries of the state senate in 1861, said that Lincoln occupied the office in the Johnson building for forty days before he left for Washington.

Nicholay's memorandum says that on Dec. 29, 1860, he moved into the Johnson building and that Lincoln planned to spend most of his time at his home. Lincoln expected to come in occasionally.



—State Journal Photo.

Sold Hotel Across Street.

Mr. Johnson, before erecting the Revere house, operated the City hotel across the street, where the Illinois hotel now stands. This he sold on Aug. 27, 1855, to William Dodd Chenery and John W. Chenery for \$30,000.

Soon after Johnson sold out to the Chenerys in 1855 he began the erection of the three story brick building directly across the street to the west. In this he opened the Revere house, although at the time of the sale of the City hotel Johnson made a written agreement with the Chenerys not to operate a hotel in Springfield for twenty years.

Faced On Washington.

The Revere house building was a three story brick that extended along Fourth street to the alley, including what is today the Silas hotel. It had stores all along on Fourth street, each forty feet. The front of each had an arched effect, with glass door panels to let in the light. On the west side of these stores was the hotel dining room. This dining room made the stores very shallow in depth and they were not rented with the exception of the corner room at Fourth and Washington streets that contained a cigar store, and another rented by a dressmaker.

An interesting feature of the

building is the wooden sills above and below the windows.

The hotel office faced on Washington with the entrance just west of the cigar store on the corner.

Patronage Stimulated.

At noon Johnson would hang in front of the entrance to the hotel, undressed game, by its legs, such as wild turkey, quail, prairie chicken, rabbit and squirrel to attract the customers, especially coming from the "St. Louis, Alton & Chicago railroad."

If customers did not stop Johnson would walk a few steps to the corner of Fourth and Washington streets, point out to them a slight bulge on the wall of the Chenery house and say that it was likely that this defect might make the building fall in on its customers. After the "City hotel" built by Johnson in the early 40's had gone through a fire in the middle 40's, Johnson had added on to it and made it a five story building and this was noticeable between the second and third stories and accounted for the bulge.

Johnson was a large, tall, pompous looking man. In the 70's, while driving on the public square he died of heart attack. The horse went on and stopped in front of the Revere house. Johnson's son was Maj. S. Johnson, the second custodian of Lincoln tomb, preceding H. W. Fay.

Making Conversation

BY J. EMIL SMITH

A caller, who expressed the wish that his name be not used, set me thinking the other day. What he said has to do with Lincoln landmarks, now gone; and the preservation of all that remain.

"Take, for example," he said, "the old church at Third and Washington streets, in which Lincoln worshipped. That building never should have been razed. Surely, had some far-seeing thought been given to the matter, it could have been preserved. The pew in which Lincoln and his family sat has been saved to posterity, it is true; but that old edifice, with its spire that I used to gaze at, silhouetted against the southern sky on moonlight nights, was a landmark that always, to me left an emotional impress."



The caller studied for a time, then recalled the improvement, a score or more of years ago, of the capitol grounds.

"I remember the old Edwards home, facing Spring street, that was torn down when that change was made. The late Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber often gave utterance to her deep regret that this old home, or part of it, wasn't retained. It was the house in which Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married. Surely, had thought been given to the matter, that room at least, properly enclosed and preserved—with an artistic outer structure—could have been left to children of the future to visit."

This friend wondered whether, between here and New Salem, there may not yet be sites and marks, where the Lincoln association is in some way recorded.

"Maybe the man carved his initials or left mementos hitherto unearthed, that investigation will reveal," he observed.

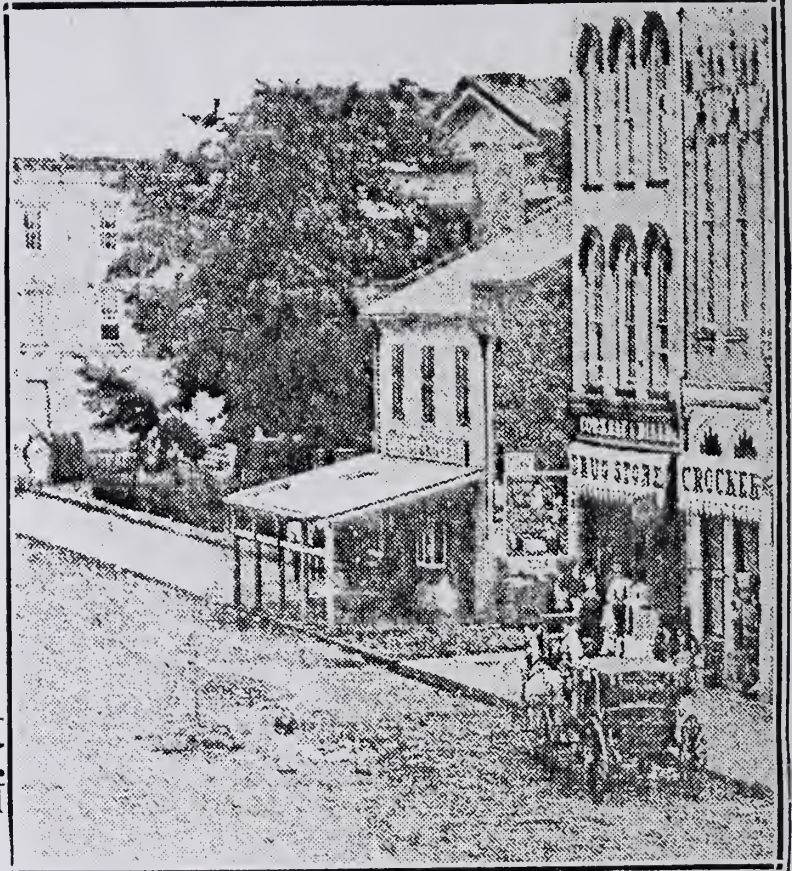
This visitor praised the work of Boy Scouts.

"Those lads make periodical pilgrimages to New Salem, I am told," he said. "They all are bright lads. Maybe they will find some tokens, one day, as yet uncovered."

As I say, it set me thinking. A metropolitan center like Springfield must grow. It must progress, and modernity must take the place of what has served its purpose.

Lincoln's birthplace in Kentucky, however—a log cabin—has been enclosed within a permanent, weather-proof memorial. Hundreds of thousands of visitors from every civilized nation on earth are numbered annually among the visitors to the Lincoln shrines in and about Springfield.

The State Bank of Illinois--1835



The Ridgely National Bank of Springfield

In 1835 Nicholas Henry Ridgely came to Springfield from St. Louis with his family, at that time consisting of his wife and six children, to accept the position of cashier of the State Bank of Illinois. It was located on the east side of the Public Square in a two-story brick building that stood where the Workman Building now stands, and which served not only for a banking room, but also for the family residence, and it was here that Charles and William Ridgely, the two eldest sons of his second wife, who afterwards were associated with him in the banking business were born.

The business then started was destined to continue through many years, and form an important factor in the developing of this community.

When the State Bank of Illinois was liquidated in 1852, Mr. Ridgely established a private banking firm under the name of Clark's Exchange Bank, which in 1859 was succeeded by N. H. Ridgely & Company, a firm in which his sons, Charles and William, became members. This business, which had been moved to the west side of the Square and occupied a building on the lot now covered by the Reich Building, was in 1866 incorporated under the National Banking Act as the Ridgely National Bank of Springfield, and continued in that location until in 1910, by the purchase of property on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets, the bank was located in the present handsome banking room.

An age-stained instrument hanging in a frame in the banking room is evidence of the important part played by the bank in the early political history of the city. This is a joint note for \$16,666.66, given in 1838 for one-third of a fund furnished to bring the State Capitol here from Vandalia. It bears the signature of John Hay, E. D. Baker, John Calhoun, C. R. Matheny, Joseph Thayer, W. P. Grimsley, Geo. Pasfield,

James L. Lamb, Thos. Mather, Thomas Haughan, Benjamin Ferguson, Stephen T. Logan, Robert Irwin, Virgil Hickox, Robert Allen, Jas. W. Keyes, John G. Bergen, William Butler, A. LINCOLN, N. W. Edwards, John T. Stuart, John Capps, Gersham Jayne, S. H. Treat, Elijah Hes, James Maxey, W. M. Cowgill and many others who were at that time prominent men in Springfield.

In 1849 the bank financed the building of the Sangamon & Morgan Railway, giving to Springfield and Sangamon and Morgan counties their first railroad, which extended from Springfield to Naples on the Illinois River, and afterwards became the Wabash Railroad.

At the same time it provided funds to build the first line of telegraph from St. Louis to Springfield.

In 1854 the Springfield Gas Light Company was financed and the city of Springfield given gas light service. Afterwards the bank was interested in Mr. A. L. Ide in the first electric plant. Prior to this the bank had

